Little Rosebuds Childcare



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Quality of Care Report

Period of review: June 2023 – May 2024

**Introduction**

I have been a registered childminder for 22.5 years and during this time I have continued my professional development to improve my service. During the period of this review I have attended training and reviewed my toys and equipment. My daughter, Lily stopped being my full time assistant in September 2023 due to starting a Level 3 Childcare course in Coleg Ceredigion. She still remains a registered assistant and has worked for me during the school holidays. I registered my friend, Claire Lowe, in August 2023 as another assistant, and she has been working full time with me since September. She has settled in well as my new assistant and developed a good rapport with the children. Stephen Rose, my husband, continues as my assistant filling in those hours that Claire and/or Lily are unavailable.

The following sources have been used as the basis of this review

* Feedback from the children – observations and questionnaires
* Parent Questionnaire
* Last year’s Quality of Care Report

Our time is spent in a mix of free play and organized activities that take place inside in the playroom and living room, outside in the back garden and log cabin, and further afield as we go to the Borth Community Hub to various groups there, and spend time in the woods, parks and beaches in the area. We started going to a new toddler group in St Paul’s Methodist Church called Baby Boogie. This combines free play with bikes, baby toys, toy kitchen and other activities with 30 minutes of singing, dance and movement, which the toddlers all thoroughly enjoy! We also have been on several trips further away, such as Fantasy Farm and the National Library.

Stephen still works from home; he spends most of his day in the computer room when not needed as my assistant.

Lily, Christopher, and Eleanor all still live at home, with all three attending university or college during the day.

I currently have 14 children on my books from 12 different families. This is a slight reduction from the last year. In this period of review, 8 children have started coming to my setting and 9 children have left. 4 left to attend a preschool setting, 1 left as I couldn’t provide the extra hours she required, 1 moved away, and 3 no longer needed childcare.

I have given parent questionnaires out to all my families, of which 2 have been returned. The children under 5 have all be observed in my setting.

**Summary of responses**

The parents are all happy with my service and setting, with all of them saying that I’m excellent. None of the parents had any suggestions for improvement, all of them saying that they were very happy with the level of care and experience that I provide for the children.

I also received Thank You cards from all the parents of the children who have left my setting this year, all these had notes inside.

The children’s questionnaires showed that I have got a wide range of toys which suit all ages. Each child had a different favourite from jigsaws, toy kitchen and toy cars to duplo, magnetic tiles, stories and arts and crafts. They all enjoy being outside with favourite trips being the park and the beach. They all love the new log cabin too.

Observations – these have also shown I have appropriate range of toys and facilities for the children. The new children have all settled in well, and all are excited and smiling when dropped off in the morning. I have observed that the younger children enjoy being included in the activities that the older children are doing, and they all watch and copy the older children, developing at a rapid rate. This year the favourite resource I have is the magnetic tiles. I have found these to be very versatile for all age ranges.

Quality of Care Report (2022 – 2023) covered several points that were working well –the parents and children are all generally happy with my setting and the services I provide.

It showed that points that needed addressing from the 2021 - 2022 report were looked at and improved on.

It also brought up several points that needed addressing. The ones that I have addressed and are now working well or are in progress are as follows:

1. Welsh provision – continue to improve the use of Welsh in the setting. I started a new online Welsh course in March 2024 through Dysgu Cymraeg
2. New equipment and resources – I have updated the bikes and dolls pushchairs for the garden, along with buying more wooden toys and a light box for the playroom.
3. Supervisions and appraisals with assistants have continued regularly.
4. Training has been kept up to date. Stephen and Claire have all completed the Introduction to Home-based Childcare unit, and Lily is currently working towards completing it.
5. Whilst writing the Quality of Care report (2021-2022) I felt that writing a short piece at the end of every month about what I have done to improve, and any courses I have attended, would help with the writing of this Quality of Care report. This was definitely the case and I will continue to do this each month.

**Action to improve as a result of people views.**

Parent questionnaire–

* No improvements suggested.

1. **Well Being**

**Service Evaluation**

The children in my care are all happy and settled. They regularly come in smiling and happy to see both Claire and me, as well as the other children. Comments on the questionnaire included “I love that he is interacting with other children of his age”

I have a wide range of toys and activities available for the children. The children can choose what they would like to play with. “Free play” is a big part of our daily routine. I listen to the children’s requests and provide other activities if they are not enjoying the current ones. I also observe the children to find out their stages of development and provide activities to help to extend their learning. They enjoy the art and craft activities we do and have great pride in showing what they have made to their parents when they go home.

All my parents said their children are happy in my care and those that can, chatter about their day with me when at they are at home. One parent says that her child says ”yay! Margaret’s house” as they drive into my road.

The children interact very well with each other. They have all made little friendships between themselves and miss each other when a child is off. Through the observations I have made of the children I have watched all the age groups interacting well, playing together, and learning how to share and wait for their turn.

The older children interact very well with the younger ones, helping them to do things and holding their hands without me asking them when we are out and about.

The children seem to enjoy their play and learning, and I try to incorporate learning opportunities through the activities provided. I encourage children to feed themselves and use the bathroom independently. The children in my setting are all communicating appropriately, and we use both English and Welsh throughout the day.

**Priorities for improvement**

* Continue to ensure that the children are happy in my care.
* Continue to monitor development of the children.

**My assessment**

My practice is Excellent

1. **Care and Development**

**Service Evaluation**

All the parents are happy with the care and development of their children. “He is growing and developing in a stimulating and happy environment”, “Very happy with his development and it’s great that you do your best to speak Welsh to him when you can”

This is a table of the training that Stephen, Lily, Claire, and I have undertaken.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Type of training | Margaret | Stephen | Lily | Claire |
| First Aid | October 2022 | October 2022 | October 2022 | September 2023 |
| Food Hygiene | May 2021 | October 2022 | October 2022 | September 2023 |
| Child Protection | Level 1 – Jan 2024  Level 2 – Jan 2024  Level 3 – Feb 2024 | October 2022 | October 2022 | September 2023 |
| Prevent refresher awareness course | March 2024 |  |  |  |
| Prevent referrals course | March 2024 |  |  |  |
| Welsh language | March 2024 - ongoing |  |  |  |

I make sure that all accidents and incidents with the children are recorded and that the parents receive a copy of the record. The parents must sign to say that they have received a copy. This copy is either a photocopy of the original record, a scanned copy which I then email to them, or a photograph of the original which I then send via email, text, or private messenger.

I know all the children I look after well and therefore can plan activities and provide suitable toys to promote their development.

Our daily activities are a mixture of adult and child led. The children have access to a wide range of age appropriate toys which help to promote positive images of minority groups. I base the activities around a theme which is chosen with the development of the children in my care in mind. Within these themes I have also been incorporating number, letter and colour recognition and developing the children’s awareness of the world around them. We regularly go on trips to the park, beach, and woods as well as walks around the village.

In response to the priorities for improvement in this area from the Quality of Care Report (2022 – 2023) all my assistants have enrolled on the Introduction to Homebased Childcare course. The date for mandatory completion of this course for assistants was moved to November 2024. Stephen and Claire have already completed the course, Lily is still in the process of completing it.

I have also completed my Level 3 in Safeguarding in January 2024.

**Priorities for improvement**

* Child Protection Training – Margaret to renew by Jan 2027

Lily and Stephen to renew by Oct 2025

* First Aid Training – Margaret, Lily and Stephen to renew by Oct 2025
* Food Hygiene Training – Margaret to renew as soon as possible

Lily and Stephen to renew by Oct 2025

* Continue Professional Development training – Look into the training courses on Pacey.

**My assessment**

My practice is Good

1. **Environment**

**Service Evaluation**

My house has a playroom, living room, dining area (in the kitchen), and downstairs toilet that the children have access to. During the pandemic I reduced this area to just the playroom, living room and the downstairs toilet. I looked into reintroducing using the dining area with the children, however, using the playroom works well. We could do with having some more low “high-chairs” to be used by the babies in the setting so that they can be at the same level as the older children when eating. The outdoor space in the back garden has been well used throughout the period of this report. Having the log cabin means that the flow between indoor and outdoor play has greatly increased.

I have a wide variety of equipment and toys available for the children both indoors and in my garden. This are regularly maintained and cleaned.

Over the period of this review I have purchased several toys and pieces of equipment. These include board games, magnetic tiles, and a new high chairs which can be used as a low chair as well. I received a grant to buy new pushchairs, and a grant through Flying Start which provided some role play equipment, counting toys and “pretend play” toys.

I have risk assessments to cover all the areas of the house and garden that are used by the children. These are updated, if required, when new equipment is purchased.

In last year’s report my priorities for improvement in this area were:

* Gas Fire - disconnect and remove from the living room.
* Redecorate both living room and playroom.
* Completely remove the current shelves in the back hall, replacing with a standalone shelving unit to stand next to the changing unit.

Unfortunately none of these have been completed and are therefore still on the priorities for improvement.

I did however purchase some more low highchairs

**Priorities for improvement**

* Gas Fire – disconnect and remove from the living room
* Redecorate both living room and playroom
* Completely remove the current shelves in the back hall, replacing with a standalone shelving unit to stand next to the changing unit.

**My assessment**

My practice is Good

1. **Leadership and Management**

**Service Evaluation**

I have been running my Childminding business for nearly 23 years. I have produced a Quality of Care report every year since 2007 which has helped me to identify areas I have needed to improve and is a good way to see if the changes I have made are effective or not.

I have kept up to date with training and during the period of this review I have attended a the Prevent awareness training and a Welsh Language course, and I have updated my Safeguarding training to a Level 3. In the past I have attended numerous courses, have renewed First Aid, Child Protection (Safeguarding) and Food Hygiene every 3 years and have a level 5 qualification in Childcare, Learning and Development (Management), and a level 3 qualification in Playwork.

I employed Claire Lowe as my assistant in September 2023. She has developed a good relationship with the children over the last 10 months.

Stephen Rose and Lilian Rose continue as my assistants, although they are only required to cover when Claire is not available. Since the start of the Pandemic Stephen has worked from home as a Computer Programmer. Lilian started at Coleg Ceredigion in September 2023, she is studying Childcare.

My Statement of Purpose is updated when required and a copy sent to CIW, I also have a comprehensive set of policies that we follow. I review these policies regularly (at least once a year, more often if required). I have a website to promote my business that has a section which contains these policies and procedures. I make sure my website is kept up to date with any changes and improvements to my service.

There are 5 people in my household. I have DBS checks for myself, Stephen (my husband) and 3 of my children (Lily, Christopher and Eleanor). Eleanor turned 16 in August 2023, and whilst I applied for her DBS straight away, it finally arrived in March 2024. During the time that she did not have a DBS I made a record of all the times she was in the home whilst I was working with the childminding children. All 5 of us are now on the DBS Update System.

I also make sure I have the correct insurances.

In last year’s report my priorities for improvement in this area were:

* Quality of Care report to be produced annually – next one due end of June 2024. I attended the Quality of Care report writing course through Pacey, and updated the way I record things that have happened every day to help with reminding me what we have done during the year.
* DBS checks – Eleanor Rose – turns 16 on 28/8/23 – Eleanor’s DBS finally came through in March 2024. She is now on the update system along with the rest of my family.

**Priorities for improvement**

* Quality of Care report to be produced annually – next one due end of June 2024.
* Insurances – PLI and PACEY membership – renewal date 16th October

ICO – renewal date 29th August

Car – renewal date 2nd March

* Attend as much training as possible

**My assessment**

My practice is Good

Date this Quality of Care Report was written 30th June 2024

Date next Quality of Care Report is due 30th June 2025