Little Rosebuds Childcare



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Quality of Care Report

Period of review: June 2024 – May 2025

**Introduction**

I have been a registered childminder for 23.5 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. At the start of this period of review I had 3 assistants. Claire Lowe was working with me full time during term time whilst she was registering as a childminder herself. My daughter Lily has been working with me when needed during the school holidays, and my husband, Stephen Rose, continued as my assistant filling in those hours that Claire and/or Lily were unavailable. Claire registered as a Childminder in June 2024 and left my setting at the end of that month to start her own business. She took some of the children in our care with her, which has allowed me to mainly work by myself, and has provided continuity of care for the children. Lily has stepped down as my assistant, as well. Her last day working for me was 27th May ‘25. She is finishing her College course at the end of June ‘25 and will be moving on to work in the local nursery. This leaves me with just Stephen as my emergency backup assistant.

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
* I have also collected comments from parents throughout the year and have collated these in a Diary of Ideas and Improvements

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, Baby Boogie at St Paul’s Methodist Centre, and spend time in the woods, parks and beaches in the area. We also visit the National Library regularly, which has a soft play area, as well as lots of lovely books to enjoy. In September I took the children to see the art exhibition there too, which included several paintings by various artists such as Turner, and it had The Stonemason’s Yard by Canaletto. We also took part in Childminding Week 2025 by visiting Llanerchaeron facilitated by the Ceredigion Childcare Unit.

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

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

I currently have 13 children on my books from 11 different families. This is a slight reduction from the last year. During this period of review, I have cared for 20 children in total, 6 children have started coming to my setting and 7 children have left. 3 left to attend a preschool setting, 1 left to go to Claire’s setting, 1 has a change in parent’s circumstances, and 3 no longer needed childcare. I also had a child who didn’t settle in September, after 4 weeks of trying, it was decided by both the parents and myself that it would be better to stop the childcare for the time being. The child came back in January, and as she was older and had started walking and beginning to talk, she has settled really well and now enjoys the time she spends at my setting. Her parents have been very appreciative of the time I’ve taken to develop the bond that she and I have.

I have given parent questionnaires out to all my families, of which 4 have been returned. The children under 5 have all be observed in my setting. I have also got 6 children’s questionnaires that have been filled in.

**Summary of responses**

The parents are all happy with my service and setting. 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, and that their children are very happy to see me.

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. Lego and board games were mentioned by several of the children as being their favourite activity. The younger children (under 2’s) like the farm animals, stories, and shape sorters. They all enjoy being outside with favourite trips being the park and Baby Boogie. One child wanted me to take him to the shops to buy toys!

Observations – these have also shown I have appropriate range of toys and facilities for the children. Most of the new children have all settled in well, and most 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 most played with resource I have is the magnetic tiles. I have found these to be very versatile for all age ranges.

Quality of Care Report (2023 – 2024) 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 2022 - 2023 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. Food Hygiene Training – I completed a Food Hygiene course in July 2024
2. Training has been kept up to date. Lily has now completed the Introduction to Home-based Childcare unit.
3. Redecorate the playroom – This was redecorated during my week off at Easter 2025. I rearranged the furniture, sorted through the toys and added a new shelf above the printer to hold the box files of paperwork.

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

Parent questionnaire–

* More Welsh-medium events – including for learners.

1. **Well Being**

**Service Evaluation**

The children in my care are all happy and settled. They regularly come in smiling and happy to see me, any of my assistants, as well as the other children. I have a group of 4 3 year olds, who have made very good friendships with each other, and whilst they don’t all come on the same day, they all see each other at least 1 day a week. Comments on the questionnaire included “The best thing is <child> absolutely LOVES coming to see you”, and “We really really appreciate that you were willing to try with <child> again, after it didn’t work out the first time. She is very attached to you and is learning a lot, not just about life skills, but also about coping away from us.”

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. I asked the children on their questionnaire about how they feel coming to my house and most said they were happy, with one saying he was excited.

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.

One parent gave me this comment after they had taken their child to the Zoo for their birthday treat *“Thank you Margaret for helping <child> to be such a confident caring child.” She went on to explain that he had a fantastic time at Hoo Zoo at the weekend, confidentally talking to adults nearby and helping one little one who was upset… he went up to this little one and asked if they were ok and showed them a toy he had in his hand to help to cheer them up. Mum said that my care and leading by example has helped this development.*

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. “Speech development has come on really well since starting with Margaret”, “We are very happy with how she is developing”

I started using the Minding Kids App in April 2025. This provides a method of letting the parents know the activities, events, routines, incidents, accidents and observations on a daily basis (they can even see when I update the app during the day). I asked the parents in their questionnaire about the method of communication they prefer and why. Out of the 4 questionnaires that were returned we had 4 different answers! One preferred the app and email as the parents are not good with paperwork and it gets lost at home. Another liked the app for photos, but preferred a verbal summary of their child’s activities at collection as it feels more personal, and they can ask me questions. The third preferred everything on paper, and the fourth likes WhatsApp!!!

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 | July 2024 | October 2022 | October 2022 | September 2023 |
| Child Protection | Level A – Jan 2024  Level B – Jan 2024  Level C – Feb 2024 |  | October 2022 | September 2023 |
| “Traffic light” training | January 2025 |  |  |  |
| Anti-racist training | January 2025 |  |  |  |
| 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. Lily was the last of the three to complete it. She finished in September 2024.

As both Claire and Lily are no longer my assistants, I am no longer responsible for their further professional development.

**Priorities for improvement**

* Child Protection Training – Margaret to renew by Jan 2027

Stephen to do the level A and level B Safeguarding

* First Aid Training – Margaret, Lily and Stephen are booked onto training on 19/9/25
* Food Hygiene Training – Margaret to renew by July 2027

Stephen to renew by Oct 2025

* Continue Professional Development training – Look into the training courses on Pacey.
* Continue using the Minding Kids App (and try all the features of the app), as well as giving verbal feedback at the end of the day. Learning journals will still be provided for those who want paper copies. And WhatsApp will also be used.

**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 walk through the dining area to go to the back hall and through into the garden. 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 various wooden items (including a farm, construction track, and balance board), books, doll buggies, and equipment such as a digital fridge thermometer. I received four grants this year, two from Ceredigion Gofal Plant (for training and diversity toys), Flying Start gave me a grant for toys for 2 – 3 year olds and I also got a grant from Pacey for art and craft supplies.

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.

We redecorated the playroom during my week off in the Easter holidays.

**Priorities for improvement**

* Gas Fire – disconnect and remove from the living room
* Redecorate living room and back hall/downstairs toilet
* 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 24 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 several Safeguarding CPD courses, such as the Traffic Light Course and The Prevent refresher course. 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.

Claire Lowe stopped working for me I employed Claire Lowe as my assistant in at the end of June 2024, and Lily Rose stopped working for me in May 2025. This was a planned change.

Stephen Rose continues as my assistant, although he is only required to cover in an emergency. Since the start of the Pandemic Stephen has worked from home as a Computer Programmer.

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. My website needs updating and I will look into revamping it in the near future. My plan is also to set up a Facebook page for my business.

There are 5 people in my household. I have DBS checks for myself, Stephen (my husband) and 3 of my children (Lily, Christopher and Theo). 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.

**Priorities for improvement**

* Quality of Care report to be produced annually – next one due end of June 2026.
* 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
* Update website and create a Facebook page for the setting.
* Both Theo and Lily are trans. Lily is beginning to change her documentation over to her new name but doesn’t have enough yet to change her DBS. Theo has only unofficially changed his name as he is under 18 at the moment. Once the correct documentation is in place I need to change their DBS’s into their new names.

**My assessment**

My practice is Good

Date this Quality of Care Report was written 29th June 2025

Date next Quality of Care Report is due 30th June 2026