

Cheeky Monkey's Child Care Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 13 August 2018

Service provided by:
Finlay, Sarah

Service provider number:
SP2017988932

Care service number:
CS2017355296

The service

Introduction

The service registered with the Care Inspectorate in June 2017. This is the service's first inspection.

Cheeky Monkey's Child Care is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 7 children at any one time under the age of 16 of whom no more than 6 may be under the age of 12, no more than 3 are not yet attending Primary School and no more than one is under 12 months.

Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. Overnight care may not be provided. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.

The service is located in the town of Cardenden, close to local primary schools and other amenities. Children have access to a living room area, kitchen (when supervised), downstairs toilet and large garden area to the rear of the property. The childminder states that her aims are:

"I encourage learning through play and encourage outdoor play and recycled items. I also aim to give full support to families who may need financial or other support."

What we did during our inspection

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. Getting it Right for Every Child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

During the inspection process, we gathered evidence from various sources, including the following:

- the childminder's policies that she shared with parents, including medication and child protection
- children's records and registration information
- the childminder's training certificates and other documentation
- discussions with the childminder
- observations of the childminder's interactions with the children present at the time of inspection
- the toys, equipment and play spaces available for children.

Views of people using the service

Children were confident in the childminder's home, playing well together and sharing resources. Strong friendships had been built between the children who attended the childminder's service and this created a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. Younger children were also included in the play with older children supporting them to learn and develop social skills. The respectful and trusting relationships the childminder had developed with children also helped them to feel safe and secure in her care. Children were able to tell us what they liked about being in the service. Their comments included:

"I'm going to follow your rules. We need to see you and not go away from you." (about the Forest Walk later in the day)

"I love going to the park and we get to go down the slide and I like it. I can go on the swing by myself."

"I like making chocolate pudding and I like making crafts."

"I like to go out in the woods because you get to dig in the mud and make mud slides and mud balls."

We sent out Care Standards Questionnaires before we visited the service. Parents who returned the questionnaires were generally happy with the service provided. They told us:

"Sarah is fantastic. She cares for my son like he is her own child. I feel that (my child) is safe with her and I know he is learning. Sarah is a childminder who does it because she loves the children."

"I am extremely happy that Sarah always does a variety of activities and on most occasions goes outside to parks/walks and does arts, crafts, reading and music. I feel Sarah's interactions were instrumental in encouraging my daughter's development and speech."

"I feel Sarah puts a lot of effort into providing the best care possible for my child as well as others. I know my child is safe and happy and genuinely enjoys spending time there. Sarah goes above and beyond to ensure I am comfortable and happy and keeps me informed of any changes and also provides a daily record of what my child has been doing which is very nice to read."

"So happy with this service. My child has improved so much with her confidence and interacting with other children. Also her talking and ability to carry out tasks has come on so much. Whilst my child is being cared for, there is a full day of activities to suit the children. She is well fed and always tired after a day at Cheeky Monkey's Child Care. The childminder is very accommodating to life's changes. She goes above and beyond to suit both the parent and the child."

Self assessment

The self assessment gave some examples of service strengths for each theme. This could be further developed to show any areas identified for service development. More consideration could be given to the wellbeing indicators and the new Health and Social Care Standards.

What the service did well

Children were confident, kind and respectful of each other in the service. Strong friendships had been built between children and the childminder had build positive and trusting relationships with children and families alike. The 'home from home' environment was safe, welcoming and provided children with a variety of play experiences. Use of the local community in play was a particular strength of the service and supported children to remain active and healthy. The childminder was committed to creating a high quality service and was keen to learn and develop as a professional.

What the service could do better

We have made two recommendations as a result of this inspection. These ask the childminder to consider:

- six monthly updates to personal plans or when a significant change occurs in a child's life to show individual progress and development
- proactive professional development in early learning and childcare to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Other areas for improvement identified were the use of loose parts play, consideration of the wellbeing indicators and new Health and Social Care Standards and changes to be made to the policies and procedures shared with families.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	3 - Adequate

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Children were being offered a variety of play experiences which were helping them to develop. They could choose from a number of activities each day including cooking, messy play, painting, drawing and outdoor play opportunities. We saw that children were having fun and felt included in making their own choices about their play including being able to influence what they did on a daily basis. The childminder was able to show how these experiences were promoting children's holistic wellbeing in line with the wellbeing indicators. In addition, families were being encouraged to continue these play experiences at the weekends, extending children's learning beyond the service. We asked the childminder to consider how she could share this progress with families more readily, using the Facebook page to describe children's development in the wellbeing indicators.

Each family had been asked to complete a personal plan when their child started in the service and the childminder described how she had used this information when children were settling in. Some observations of children's play and development had been recorded to show what children were achieving in the service; however, we asked that the childminder ensure that this information is updated at least once in every six months or when there are significant changes in a child's life.

This will support families to see the progress their child is making in the service and also ensure that children's needs, wishes and choices are well supported. See recommendation one.

The childminder was conscious of the role she played in supporting children to resolve conflict. She was using clear strategies to help children understand their emotions and how they can regulate these to build positive and trusting relationships with their peers. Time to reflect and discuss their feelings was given openly and this helped children to feel nurtured and respected in the service. We asked that the childminder review the information she gave to families about this when they started. This will ensure they have a clear understanding of the strategies she uses to support friendships and conflict resolution.

Healthy lifestyles were being promoted in the service. Children were involved in choosing and preparing snacks and meals such as soup, fruit and vegetables. Children were actively encouraged to play outside every day and regular visits to local parks and wooded areas gave them opportunities to engage in risky and physical play on a regular basis, whatever the weather.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. We recommend that the childminder ensure that children's personal plans are updated at least once in every six months or when there is a significant change in a child's life. This should be shared with families and, where appropriate, children should be involved in this as well.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that I am fully involved in assessing my emotional, psychological, social and physical needs at an early stage, regularly and when my needs change (HSCS 1.12).

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder's home was welcoming and safe for children. She was keen to create a 'home from home' environment which was uncluttered and promoted open ended, creative play. The childminder told us she used real life, natural materials where possible in place of 'toys' to encourage children's curiosity and creativity. This approach was supporting children to be imaginative in their play and work closely together to build their own experiences. We suggested ways that this practice could be further enhanced with the use of 'loose parts' in children's play, an approach which recognises a wide variety of real life materials as rich and relevant resources to promote play.

Children accessed the local community regularly and spoke fondly about the 'Forest Walks' they attended when they explored a natural environment.

Creating paper boats to float in streams, jumping in puddles and searching for bugs in the forest all gave children opportunities to gain an appreciation of the natural world. They were excited to tell us about what they had learned and how they could choose what they wanted to do outdoors. Whatever the weather, children were engaging in active, physical play outdoors which helped them to understand their own capabilities and take measured risks. Other amenities in the local community such as the library and charity shops further extended children's play, choosing games for the childminder's home and spending time with other children in the community during organised activities.

Children could explore the childminder's home freely and this helped them to be independent and make their own choices. Resources were accessible for children to choose each day and we saw that they were respectful and responsible, tidying away resources they didn't want to play with any more before choosing new ones. In addition, children's health was supported through clear infection control procedures where children understood how to keep themselves safe, washing their hands before lunch and helping younger children to do the same. The childminder had considered the safety of the home for children and had recently passed her food hygiene inspection which told us that the home was safe for food preparation.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The childminder was committed and dedicated to her role and was keen to learn and provide a high quality service to the children in her care. She was able to tell us how children were at the heart of her service and the ways she wanted to help them develop into responsible and kind people who cared for others and themselves. Her approach to building relationships with children and families was helping them to feel nurtured and respected, including them in decisions and listening carefully to their wishes and choices. When families started in the service, she shared her own values about children's play, communicating her love for messy, outdoor play to ensure families were 'on board' with the philosophy in the service.

Training on child protection and supporting children's behaviour had helped the childminder to gain a better understanding of working in early learning and childcare. She had also attended other training, alongside professional reading, which was beginning to impact on her practice.

We discussed a variety of documents which would further support the childminder to improve the quality of her practice. We asked the childminder to think about ways to be proactive about her own development and recognise her own strengths and areas for improvement in line with the new Health and Social Care Standards. This will ensure the childminder can be reflective and remain up to date with best practice in early learning and childcare, creating a culture of continuous improvement. See recommendation one.

We reviewed the policies and procedures which the childminder shared with families when they started in the service. While these were adequate to understand the basic aspects of the childminder's approach, we asked the childminder to consider how these could be further improved to provide a clear picture of what families can expect when using the service. Particular attention should be made to including the wellbeing indicators and Health and Social Care Standards in these policies. This will ensure that families receive and understand information that is right for them.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. We recommend that the childminder develop her awareness of best practice in early learning and childcare, proactively engaging with relevant documents to recognise her strengths and areas for improvement. Showing how this research has impacted on improving the service will allow her to develop as a professional and make changes to meet the needs of the children in her care. This may also lead to changes to policies and procedures in the service which are shared with families.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice.' (HSCS 4.11).

Grade: 3 - adequate

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since registration.

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since registration.

Inspection and grading history

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

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