

Nurture by Nature Child Minding Child Minding

Dunblane

Type of inspection:
Announced (short notice)

Completed on:
9 February 2021

Service provided by:
Alison MacDonald

Service provider number:
SP2013985596

Service no:
CS2013323095

About the service

The service has been registered since 2014.

Alison MacDonald, referred to as the 'Childminder' in this report, is the provider of Nurture by Nature, Childminding Service. The service is registered to provide care to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16 years of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is less than 12 months.

Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own children. Overnight care may be provided to a maximum of two children at any one time. (The childminder said no children have attended her service overnight since the time of her previous inspection.)

The service is run from the family home in Dunblane and is well situated to access a wide range of amenities including schools, nurseries, parks and shops. The house is well organised to meet the needs of children. Children have access to a well-resourced playroom, a living room which is used for quieter, relaxing activities and a kitchen, used for arts and crafts, baking and meals. There is also an enclosed garden, which is used under supervision when in use.

The service's aims include providing 'children with a stable, loving and safe environment to play in, have fun, learn and develop to their full potential'.

We undertook this inspection using virtual methodology which includes the use of technology to inspect services. As part of this process, we gathered evidence from various sources, including the following:

- discussion with the childminder
- sample of children's records
- observation of the interaction between the childminder and two minded children
- parents' comments
- observation of the childminding environment and resources.

This was a focussed inspection to evaluate how well children are being supported during the COVID-19 pandemic. We evaluated the service based on key areas that are vital to the support and wellbeing of children attending a care service during the pandemic.

What people told us

At the time of inspection, there were eight children registered to use the service. All of these children attended part-time or on an ad-hoc basis. Two children were present during part of the the virtual inspection and we observed a short play session. Both children were very settled and confident while they played alongside the childminder.

We received emails from three families and they all expressed a high level of satisfaction about the level of care and support they and their children received in the service. Parents described the childminder as being nurturing and supportive. We shared this feedback with the childminder.

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	5 - Very Good
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Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?

5 - Very Good

Quality indicator 5.1: Children's health and wellbeing are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19:

- Children are nurtured and supported throughout their changed experience in their early learning and childcare setting.
- Effective communication with families enables responsive care to support children through changing circumstances.

Effective communication with families prior to reopening the service had helped the childminder to provide a caring, flexible service for children and their families. Parents' feedback to us about the service was very positive.

Sensitive settling in processes had been arranged with parents to support their children's return to the service. These included maintaining links with the children while the service was closed through the provision of resources and opportunities to join virtual forest school sessions. Parents were asked to review and update their child's personal plan online before they returned to the service. These provided a two-way link between the childminder and home to share children's experiences, feedback on activities and identify and agree their child's next steps in learning. This had enabled the childminder to plan care that was responsive to the children's changed needs.

The childminder placed importance on establishing good relationships with parents and this helped her provide consistency of care between her home and theirs. A private Facebook page and text messages informed parents about the activities and care given to their children.

The childminder described talking to children if they had questions or concerns about the pandemic and reassuring them.

Children were given access to a wide range of play experiences and opportunities to support their learning and wellbeing. They benefitted from being given access to the outdoors, through play in the garden or on outings. These activities helped to develop children's physical skills and provided opportunities for them to relax and have fun. Children responded well to the childminder and readily approached her for support and to ask questions.

The childminder was aware of her responsibility to follow up on any concerns about the children's welfare. She knew to contact the social work service or police for further advice. This helped her to keep children safe. The childminder had maintained links with other agencies including the local authority education service to support children. This contributed to children's health and wellbeing and ensured continued support for families during the pandemic.

Quality indicator 5.2: Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff.

- Children are protected as staff take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection.

Children experienced a home-from-home environment which appeared clean, tidy and smoke-free. Systems were in place for the cleaning of areas accessed by children, resources and frequent touch points which supported the maintenance of a safe environment.

The childminder used a COVID-19 risk assessment and other relevant good practice documentation to inform her practice. These had helped her implement measures to support effective infection and control practices to keep families safe. For example, dropping off and collection procedures had been changed to support physical distancing between the adults, reducing the risk of infection. The childminder described talking to children if they had any concerns including about the pandemic and reassuring them.

The childminder promoted good hygiene to minimise the risk and spread of infection. She confirmed that she reminded children about hand washing including before meals and after playing outdoors. Personal protective equipment including single use gloves were available, if required.

The rear garden was fully enclosed and enabled children to spend time outside. The childminder said she took the children outdoors as much as possible. Spending time outdoors helped to reduce the risk and spread of COVID-19.

We discussed with the childminder the importance of regularly reviewing cleaning and hygiene procedures. This will ensure that procedures and practices continue to meet with guidance and are consistently applied to keep children well.

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	5 - Very Good
5.1 Children's health and well being are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19	5 - Very Good
5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff	5 - Very Good
5.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of children during COVID-19	5 - Very Good

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