

Little Monkeys Childminding Child Minding

Dumfries

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
21 May 2021

Service provided by:
Fiona Ovens

Service provider number:
SP2015987365

Service no:
CS2019375468

About the service

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives. The Care Inspectorate has an important role to play in supporting this approach in inspecting care services for children.

This service has been registered since 18 July 2019.

Little Monkeys Childminding service is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than 3 are not yet of an age to attend primary school, and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. Overnight care will not be provided. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.

The service is located in a residential area of Dumfries. The childminder provides her service from her home, which has a garden. The childminder's home is within walking distance of schools, shops and parks.

On the day of the inspection, there were three young minded children present. The children were relaxed and settled in the childminder's care.

What people told us

Observation of the children who were present during the inspection formed an integral part of the assessment. The children played together well and were able to choose from a variety of toys and activities which supported their development and interests. They were confident about making their wishes known to the childminder and appeared to be happy and settled in her care.

We spoke to 4 parents using the service. All parents were very happy and confident that their children were well cared for. Parents felt that they were well informed about the service and about their own children. Parents liked the use of Whatsapp, which they said the childminder had used before the pandemic. They liked the daily reports and photographs and told us that they were able to share information and ask questions using this platform as well.

Parents liked the activities provided for their children. They told us that their children got a wide variety of experiences and opportunities, some of which they would not be getting at home like messy play and craft activities. They told us that the childminder followed the child's routines and they were happy that their children went for walks and played outdoors. Parents told us about how well their children were developing new skills and interests.

All parents were aware of the childminder's policies and procedures for Covid-19 and told us that they had been shared with them. They knew about keeping their children at home if they were unwell or if they had symptoms themselves. Parents told us that they had felt supported during the pandemic and were confident that their children were safe.

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 the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- 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.

Children were being cared for in a friendly, nurturing and homely environment. The childminder knew the children in her care very well and made sure that she shared information with parents so that she was aware of changes in their lives. She supported children well as they settled into new routines, and used this time to get to know them. Parents told us that their children were happy to see the childminder, and had returned to her care after lockdown as if they had never been away.

Parents felt well informed. The childminder used an app on her phone to tell them about their child's day. Parents told us they knew what their children had been doing and liked getting the photographs and information on a daily basis. They told us about the activities the childminder had provided during lockdown, which helped them to keep in touch both with her and with other parents. They found this very supportive and it was fun.

Children experienced a variety of opportunities which supported their learning and development. They were able to choose from a variety of toys and games, which were appropriate for their age and also easy to clean. The childminder treated the children with warmth and respect. Parents told us that their children ran into the house and liked to get a hug when they arrived. Parents were confident that their children were safe and loved. They were confident that their children were developing new skills and had opportunities to practice what they had already learned.

All children had personal care plans, which showed how children had developed over time and how the childminder planned to support them. The childminder had developed the use of observations to identify children's interests, achievements and next step. We discussed how the childminder could improve these by tailoring the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators to individual children more and by developing the use of timelines and chronologies.

The childminder was confident about her role and responsibilities for protecting children and keeping them safe. She spoke confidently of her role and the action she would take if she had any concerns about a child's health or welfare.

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.

The childminder was aware of the Covid-19 guidance regarding infection prevention and control. The childminder had attended on online training opportunity, which she found helpful and supported her to feel confident that she was keeping her home safe. She had developed policies, procedures and risk assessments to take account of guidance and had shared these with parents.

Parents told us about the safety measures and changes which had been put in place following lockdown and these included wearing masks, keeping socially distant and not entering the childminder's home. Parents were confident that their children were safe whilst in the childminder's care. Appropriate procedures were in place for managing illness. The childminder was clear about the signs and symptoms relating to COVID-19 and when children should not attend the service. Information had been shared with parents about COVID-19 symptoms and isolation periods. All parents understood that their child could not attend the service if they were showing any symptoms.

Enhanced cleaning procedures were in place and the childminder ensured that her home was cleaned regularly and frequently. The childminder understood the need for natural ventilation and kept the windows open to ensure children had access to fresh air throughout the day. Children played outdoors and went for regular walks in the community every day. The childminder assessed risk whilst out for walks and made sure that play spaces were safe for children. We discussed the use of hand sanitiser when out and about and advised that this is not recommended for children under the age of 5 years. Children were supported to wash their hands when they came into the house, and at other appropriate times. The childminder agreed to continue providing paper towels for hand drying.

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

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

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