

Peace of Mind Childminding Child Minding

Inverurie

Type of inspection:
Announced (short notice)

Completed on:
21 June 2021

Service provided by:
Susan Guthrie

Service provider number:
SP2019990424

Service no:
CS2019373677

About the service

Peace of Mind Childminding was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 31 May 2019.

The childminding service is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children up to 16 years of age these numbers include the children of the childminder's family:

- Of those six: no more than three are not yet attending primary school;
- Of those three: no more than one is under 12 months. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate. No overnight care will be provided.

The childminding service is located in Oldmeldrum and is situated close to local amenities including parks, woods, the local nursery and primary school. In the childminder's home the children have access to the, playroom, kitchen and dining area, hall, a bathroom, and a fully enclosed garden. These areas are well kept and allow children a variety of areas to play safely.

The aims and objectives of the service included:

- As a registered childminder I am going to strive to create a fun, safe and friendly environment where children feel confident and happy and parents feel confident in the knowledge that their child is being well looked after.
- Children will be encouraged to try new activities and tasks and make solid friendships with their peers.
- I will ensure that I provide a varied selection of appropriate activities and experiences for children in my care.
- Most importantly, I will try to ensure that I have a close relationship to both the parents and the children who use my service.

We carried out an onsite inspection of Peace of Mind childminding on 3 June 2021 and gave feedback on 21 June 2021. Part of the inspection was carried out virtually to complete the inspection.

This was a focused inspection to evaluate how well children were 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 experiencing care during the pandemic. This inspection was carried out by two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate.

What people told us

We made contact with four parents of the children who attended the service. Parents expressed they were very happy with the service provided.

One parent told us: "Susan was very supportive, she kept in touch during lockdown via 'WhatsApp' both to me personally, and in the parent group as well".

The childminder manages arrival and departure times well. We were told: "parents stand back and give each family space to safely complete drop off and pick up".

Parents feel the communication was good. One parent said: "they have a little chat on the doorstep and Susan sends photos and updates throughout the day via 'WhatsApp'. If she has any questions, Susan always gets back to her and she feels reassured".

Parents were happy with the measures put in place. One parent said: "I am very happy, there is a plastic box at the front door for the packed lunches, water bottles and jackets to be put in - hands get washed as soon as my child arrives, and I stand two metres from the front door for drop off".

The childminder has built good relationships with the parents. We were told: "Susan is a fantastic childminder, I don't know what either of us would do without her".

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.

Children experienced positive, warm relationships with the childminder. They were clearly comfortable and at home in the setting. This nurturing approach encouraged them to feel safe and secure in the service.

The childminder used fun and imaginative ways to engage the children in a wide range of play experiences and opportunities. This supported their learning and wellbeing. They benefited from having regular access to the outdoors, through play in the garden and outings to the local area such as the beach or the woods. These activities helped to develop children's physical skills and provided opportunities for them to relax and have fun.

During lockdown, to help maintain links between the childminder and children she left sunflowers on their doorsteps for them to look after and grow. She kept in touch with families throughout lockdown through phone calls. Parents told us they felt this was helpful. The childminder worked with individual families to provide support where it was needed. These combined approaches helped children settle back into the service feeling safe and secure.

All children settled back well through doing a large amount of 'Health and Wellbeing' activities. The childminder placed importance on establishing good relationships with parents and this helped her provide consistency of care between her home and theirs. Parents spoke about how approachable the childminder has been. A questionnaire was issued to parents and the responses were very supportive and encouraging.

The childminder knew the children in her care very well. We looked at personal plans for children. These had recently been updated and contained relevant information about children's care needs and interests. This knowledge supported the childminder to meet children's individual needs.

The childminder understood her responsibilities to protect children from harm. She was aware of signs that could indicate children were at risk and knew who to report any concerns to. This contributed to keeping children safe.

Effective communication with families continues to take place through socially distanced hand overs and through the use of 'WhatsApp'. Parents spoke about how they liked the use of this approach for passing on information and seeing photos of their children having fun.

**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 were protected from the spread of infection as the childminder had embedded effective infection prevention and control procedures into daily practice. The childminder had a Covid-19 policy and risk assessment in place which clearly showed her understanding of the latest Scottish Government guidance. These were shared with families.

The property was visibly clean, including touch points. Soft furnishings had been reduced to ensure the environment could be easily cleaned. This ensured that children experienced a clean and safe environment.

The toy room was clean and well organised, which supported children to access a variety of resources independently. The childminder continued to give the children sensory experiences like playing with water, this was disposed of after use and the children washed their hands. This supported children in their learning and achievements.

Hand washing facilities were noted to be clean and fit for purpose. Children were supported to wash their hands effectively by the childminder, the use of a blue 20 second timer and rhymes made this a fun experience. Disposable paper towels were used for drying hands. It was noted that hand washing was taking place at regular intervals.

Doors and windows remained open to allow effective ventilation within the service. The childminder understood the importance of the outdoors and fresh air for children. This contributed to children remaining safe and healthy.

Both the childminder and families were clear about the signs and symptoms relating to Covid-19. By sharing this information it had developed a consistent approach and clear understanding by all involved in order that action could be taken quickly if needed.

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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