

Muddy Puddles Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 30 June 2021

Service provided by:
Amy Duncombe

Service provider number:
SP2019990448

Care service number:
CS2019373970

Introduction

Amy Duncombe has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since May 2019.

The childminder is currently registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16 years, of whom a maximum of six will be under 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under the age of 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

Other conditions unique to the service:

Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.

Overnight service will not be provided.

The service is provided from the childminder's home which is located within a residential area of Perth. The main areas used to provide the service are a dedicated playroom, kitchen and toilet. Children also have access to a large garden at the rear of the property.

The childminder provides a service to six registered children throughout the week.

Aims of the service include:

- To provide for their health, safety and happiness in a nurturing home environment
- In partnership with parents I will seek to assist their development emotionally, socially, physically and intellectually
- Children will have opportunities to socialize with other children in local organizations and activities
- A variety of indoor and outdoor play experiences will be available to promote and develop your child's social, emotional and intellectual skills as well as encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection, which took place on 25 June 2021 between 10.00 and 11.40. The inspection was carried out by one early learning and childcare inspector. Feedback was given to the childminder over the telephone on 30 June 2021 when the inspection had been concluded.

During this inspection we looked around the areas used by the minded children. We spoke with the childminder and observed the quality of interactions between the children present and the childminder. We sampled relevant documentation to support the evaluation findings.

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.

Views of people using the service

We spoke with two parents on the telephone after the onsite visit, their comments included:

'Fantastic service.'

'My children love it.'

'Amy has been a saviour, has gone above and beyond to help my child.'

'Amy provides a nurturing environment where I feel my child is safe, developing and most of all happy.'

'I feel my child is listened to by Amy and she goes with their interests.'

'They do loads of science experiments.'

'She doesn't have to do as much as she does, she has kept my child in a routine.'

'I don't feel as though I'm missing out on anything, Amy keeps me well informed.'

'We are always asked for our opinions and views.'

'Amy is so hands on with the kids, keeps them engaged in fun activities.'

'I can talk to her about anything.'

'The children are changed out of their school uniform, that is very helpful.'

'She is really organised, Amy will remind me if I have forgotten to fill something out.'

'Service has been flexible; Amy will adapt to things that are in place at home.'

'Amy provides a 'home from home' and a safe and active environment.'

'We always feel fully informed about what's happened at school and our child's day in general.'

'My children always come home asking to do the new stuff they have done at Amy's, I would never have thought of these activities.'

'We have no issues in speaking to Amy directly if we had a problem with anything.'

'We have never had any cause to complain to Amy, however she is very approachable should we need too we could speak to her openly.'

'We are very lucky to have Amy.'

'Amy is able to provide activities to capture both of my children's interests.'

'I follow the Facebook page which is very informative on the activities and learning.'

'As a working mum, Amy really helps me.'

There was one minded child present at the time of inspection who was happy and content in the childminders care. The child played well with the childminder's own children during the inspection the children told us:

'There are frogs in the pond over there.'

'I like school but it's strict.'

'We go on big walks, there was a tree all on it's own, abandoned. We took it and planted it, it's a lot bigger now. We put baubles on it at Christmas time.'

'Look, this is what I like to do in the garden.'

'I like to climb this tree but we can't just now as there's so much sap.'

'We do elephant toothpaste, that's fun.'

'I like exploding paint and we've made perfume.'

'This is a number, look there's googly eyes on it, I made it.'

'We're going to find out what's in these coconuts, one makes a noise, what could that be?'

'I feel safe and happy here.'

'We had Chicken Tikka for dinner, (child's name) chose it.'

Self assessment

The childminder had submitted a fully completed self-assessment. We found the information contained in the self-assessment reflected the service that the childminder provides through our observations during the inspection.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a flexible and accommodating service. She knew the families very well and was committed to providing children with fun learning experiences.

What the service could do better

Older children attending the service could identify their own next steps in learning and development. The childminder should think about how she could help support these identified next steps against the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators, to further monitor children's next steps in learning and development.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The performance in this quality theme was found to be very good.

On the day of inspection there was one minded child, and the childminder's three children present. Positive relationships had been formed and were evident. Warm and nurturing interactions were seen, as they played happily together throughout the inspection. The childminder effectively responded to all children and was kind and very nurturing in her approach. The childminder role modelled manners and was respectful, as a result, the children were seen to be well mannered and considerate of each other's views and choices. This told us children felt valued and included.

Children had experiences that supported their health and wellbeing. The children showed us coconuts they were going to open and investigate later that afternoon. They were eager to see what was inside. This told us that children were curious and confident. They had access to a range of interesting resources and proudly showed us letters and numbers they had made from resin. Children were able to make choices in their play and took part in a wide range of experiences which supported them to achieve.

Through consultation with families the childminder had gathered detailed information for personal care plans. This helped her to respond to children's individual needs. Children were consulted on what they would want to do and what they would like to eat for dinner while attending the service. This approach supported children to feel that their wishes and choices were valued and respected.

We asked the childminder to think about how she could use the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators further to improve monitoring of children's learning and development. We discussed how the children could identify their own next steps in learning and development. We agreed that sharing this information with parents regularly would continue to build on the positive relationships within the service.

The childminder had formed very trusting relationships with the families who used her service. Very good communication systems were in place on various media platforms. The parent's we spoke with held her in high regard and it was clear they valued her support.

The childminder was aware of her responsibility to safeguard children. She had a very good understanding of child protection and had considered the potential impact of COVID-19 on the children and their families. This was clear in her sensitive, flexible, and nurturing approach to supporting children's emotions and their families' individual needs.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The performance in this quality theme was found to be very good.

We found the premises to be safe, well maintained tidy and very clean. The indoor and outdoor environments provided a wealth of learning experiences for the children.

The childminder told us she promoted outdoor activities and an ethos of learning in fun ways. The children told us of trips they had been on within their local community and were proud to share their experiences with us. The children engaged well in fun scientific experiments such as 'exploding paint', making perfume and elephant toothpaste' and were keen to tell how us they had made letters and numbers from resin.

Overall Infection control procedures in place were very good and ensured children were kept safe and healthy. The children knew when they should wash their hands and the childminder supported them to do this providing gentle reminders when coming into the playroom after playing outdoors. The childminder showed us hand towels that the children had tie dyed to support them with their hand washing routines.

The childminder understood the importance of ventilation and the playroom door was kept open throughout the inspection. We discussed nappy changing and found the childminder was up to date with current best practice. Personal protective equipment (PPE) was available for intimate care and should a child develop symptoms of Covid-19. These procedures helped minimise the spread of infection.

The childminder had developed written procedures and risk assessments based on current national guidance. This had helped her to become familiar with and deliver a consistent approach to her practice. A dedicated playroom leading out into the garden meant that that adults did not enter the home and physical distancing was being maintained. Families had been kept very well informed of the expectation of children remaining at home when unwell and the Test and Protect procedure.

The childminder skilfully managed risk in play and she spoke to us about allowing the children to independently explore their environments when out and about in their local community. This helped ensure that the children developed their own understanding of how to keep themselves and others safe while experiencing positive risk. This allowed them to learn to problem solve independently.

A system was in place to record any significant accidents or incidents.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The performance in this quality theme was found to be very good.

The childminder spoke of positive relationships made with other local childminders which she found beneficial in sharing best practice. She had accessed The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA), Minding Kids' App and Care Inspectorate Hub for information on how to keep her service current and up to date.

The childminder demonstrated that she was committed to providing positive outcomes for children. Self-directed research, reading and training confirmed the childminders commitment to providing children with a

high standard of care. We saw that the childminder had undertaken a variety of training opportunities to ensure that she had the knowledge and skills to offer high quality care and experiences for the children. We asked the childminder to consider keeping a learning log of all training, self-directed reading and research and how she has used this to influence and improve her service. This would help support her with further service improvements in providing positive outcomes for children.

The childminder was very good at involving children and parents in all aspects of the service. Their views and opinions were regularly sought, and she respected their views and opinions. The childminder told us how she would implement changes to the service, gathered from parental questionnaires when restrictions resulting from the pandemic were lifted. Having a range of systems in place for encouraging parents and children to participate in service evaluation demonstrated a commitment to improvement. This supported children and families to feel included in the service.

We saw that Facebook posts of children's activities included the SHANNARI wellbeing indicators to inform parents of children's development and learning. This encouraged family learning and the parents we spoke too were appreciative of these daily posts and updates. Having a range of systems in place for encouraging parents and children to participate in the service evaluation demonstrated a commitment to improvement and helped support children and families to feel respected and involved in service development.

The childminder should continue to develop the children's care and learning experiences and the ongoing improvement of the service through self-evaluation as highlighted within this report.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

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 the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

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

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