

Gosia Childminding Service

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 19 August 2021

Service provided by:
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Service provider number:
SP2018989993

Care service number:
CS2018367870

Introduction

Gosia Childminding Service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 17 October 2018. This is the service's first full inspection of all quality themes.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending Primary School and no more than 1 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.

Gosia Childminding Service is located in a residential area of Kirkcaldy, Fife. The childminder uses a conservatory space and living room for childminding in the home. Children have access to a downstairs toilet and a large garden area to the rear. The garden has a number of different spaces to offer children a variety of play experiences and they spend a lot of time in local green spaces. The service is close to a variety of local amenities such as play parks, beaches and shops. The childminder offers out of school care for children who attend Torbain Primary School.

The childminder's aims and objectives include:

"I aim to provide an environment which is caring, safe, secure and in which you are happy to leave your child in the knowledge that they are happy, healthy and well cared for.

Using my knowledge and experience, taking into account current legislation and the best practice I will:

- Treat each child as an individual
- Ensure and maintain the health and safety of children in my care
- Observe and assess the need of the children in my care
- Help children emotionally, physically, intellectually and socially
- Provide a stimulating home-based care with a curriculum which acknowledges the need for learning through play, while adhering to daily routines
- Regularly review policies and procedures
- Recognise that at all times the welfare of the child is paramount.

My aim is to provide the best possible care I can to support both child and parents."

What we did during our inspection

We started the inspection with an unannounced on-site visit on Tuesday 17 August 2021 and continued the process using virtual technology. We provided feedback to the childminder on Thursday 19 August 2021. As part of the inspection process, we undertook the following:

- observations of children's play and interactions with the childminder
- discussions with children
- environment safety checks
- phone call contact with the childminder
- email contact with parents
- review of written evidence such as personal plans, policies, procedures and risk assessments
- review of communication evidence for families including emails.

As part of this inspection, we took into consideration Key Question 5 - Operating an early learning and childcare setting (including out of school care and childminders) during Covid-19 with a specific focus on Quality indicator 5.2: Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff. We will report on the overall performance of this indicator in Theme 1 Quality of Care and Support.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing of children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

Views of people using the service

Three minded children and the childminder's own children were in attendance when we inspected. Children were happy and content and they felt relaxed and comfortable in the environment. Children played well together and they had built strong friendships with each other. Older children were nurturing towards younger children and helped them to learn new skills. Children laughed and smiled while playing together and we saw caring interactions between them and the childminder. Children were keen to tell us what they enjoyed about being in the childminder's home. They told us:

"I like going to the park."

"I want to be a policeman."

"Sometimes we get apples and chips."

"We have bananas like monkeys."

We asked the childminder to share an email request for feedback from parents and carers at the beginning of the inspection. We heard from two parents and they were very happy with the experience they had with the childminder. They told us:

"I am very happy with the experience I get from Gosia and my (child) also loves attending. Gosia provides constant feedback to me regarding my (child), which I find very reassuring."

"Gosia supports (my child) in every sense and I have never had to question or worry about leaving (my child). Gosia put our minds at ease from the settling in days and (my child) loves attending."

"I feel Gosia has coped very well during the pandemic and the plans that have been put in place to keep us all as safe as possible works very well."

"We are really happy with level of attention paid to our child and it's very obvious that (they) feel happy when (they are) coming back home happy with a big smile on (their) face. We also are confident about (their) positive experiences as she usually asking if (my child) can go tomorrow too (even on Fridays)!"

"On a regular basis we are discussing our child's needs, etc with childminder. Also worth to note that we are receiving information about (our child's) day on a visit basis (day feedback) so we are well informed."

Self assessment

We carried out an assessment of the service's own self evaluation during the Covid-19 pandemic in October 2020. We found that there was sufficient evidence to show how children were being nurtured and supported through their changed experiences within the setting. We also found evidence that importance had been placed on communication with families to enable responsive support for individual children's health and wellbeing. The childminder was able to provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate how national guidance informed infection prevention and control practices and procedures to provide a safe environment and protect children at that time.

What the service did well

Children were happy, confident and comfortable in the childminder's care. Families had been included in planning how their children would be supported and their choices were respected by the childminder. Children had access to fun play experiences and regularly spent time outdoors, in the garden or the local community. The childminder took great care to keep her home clean and safe for children and this created a warm and welcoming space for children and families to enjoy. The childminder was keen to learn and develop her service and had taken time to learn new skills which improved the quality of experiences on offer.

What the service could do better

The childminder should now consider how she can build stronger relationships with other professionals involved in children's lives, for example, at school or with health visitors. This would help children have a more consistent experience between home, school and the childminder's home. Children should also be offered more creative and challenging play experiences, for example, by adding open-ended resources and creating a cosy space for children to relax and rest. We also discussed how the childminder could make better use of best practice guidance to make improvements to the service. This would support her in continuing to improve the quality of care, play and learning children experience in her care.

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	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Children were offered warm, caring and nurturing interactions from the childminder and this helped them to feel safe and secure. There were strong and trusting relationships between the childminder, children and families and this created a respectful service where everyone felt included. Children were confident, happy and comfortably explored the play spaces available to them.

Children were recognised as unique individuals with specific interests and areas for development. Regular discussions with families helped the childminder to create personal plans which met children's needs and these were updated to be relevant and accurate. Families' rights were respected and the childminder listened carefully to their views so that children experienced care which was closely linked to their home life. The childminder should now consider how children's progress information (known as PLGs) can be further developed to be more manageable and individual to each child. This includes showing what children are aiming to achieve and how she will support them to do that.

Children were offered healthy, home-cooked meals which supported them to have a positive relationship with food. Mealtimes were relaxed and sociable and children were also offered food experiences outwith mealtimes. This helped them to learn more about health and nutrition in a fun way. Children were independent where possible at mealtimes and the childminder supported children when they needed it.

Children were kept safe and protected due to the childminder having a good understanding of what to do if she was concerned about a child's care, welfare or wellbeing needs. The childminder was aware of the variety of circumstances where children may need some additional support and she was confident about taking action to help families if this was needed. We discussed how the childminder could make further links with other professionals involved in the child's life and offer support for children who have specific needs .

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and staff. For example, we saw the childminder cleaning the environment frequently and children were encouraged to have fun while washing their hands. We asked the childminder to ensure children washed their hands at the right times, for example, when leaving the home and after having their nappy changed.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Children were being cared for in a warm, welcoming and safe environment which supported them to develop and learn. They had free flow access between the living room and conservatory areas, which gave them lots of space to play with friends or on their own. A range of play resources were available for children to choose from and this helped them to explore their own interests. The childminder encouraged children to look after the toys and be responsible with them. Additional open-ended, natural materials were being introduced for children and this offered more creative play experiences for children.

We asked the childminder to continue introducing these types of resources so children have more chance to explore their natural curiosity and problem solving skills. We also suggested that a cosy area could be introduced to offer children a quiet space to relax and rest.

Children were kept safe and healthy in the childminder's home and this was an area which the childminder had paid close attention to throughout the pandemic. Clear and concise risk assessments were in place and these had been shared with families to ensure they understood how the childminder was creating a safe environment for everyone. The home was clean, tidy and well-maintained and careful consideration had been given to reducing the risk of the spread of infection.

Outdoor play had been a particular focus over recent months and children were able to spend lots of time outdoors, both in the garden and in the local area. Children were comfortable in the outdoors, exploring the environment freely and independently, with confidence. The childminder had made a number of changes to the garden area which made it both safer and more exciting for children to play in. Opportunities to explore local parks, beaches and other areas of interest were frequent and this helped children to feel a part of their community. The childminder should continue to develop her understanding of outdoor play and the positive impact it has on children's health and wellbeing. This will support her to offer even more engaging and exciting play for children in the future.

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

Children were being offered a good quality of experience as a result of the childminder's commitment to her service. Families had the opportunity to provide feedback to the childminder both informally through text and through more formal questionnaires. The childminder had used their suggestions to make changes and children's interests and requests were also considered when making improvements. Families were kept updated on their own child's day, especially when their child was settling into the service. This offered reassurance to families and helped them to feel included and respected from their first days with the childminder. The childminder should now consider how she can include children and families even more in making positive changes to the service.

Children should be lead on decisions about how the service can be better for them and families should also be consulted regularly about what they think about the service as a whole.

Families had been kept informed of any changes to relevant policies and procedures, including when changes were made to guidance during the pandemic. Keeping families up to date with these changes and discussing this with them helped to put them at ease. While some policies and procedures had been updated, we found that other policies could be improved to include more detail, for example, child protection and managing medication. We asked the childminder to review these policies in line with current best practice guidance so that children and families fully understand what to expect.

The childminder was keen to learn and develop her practice so that children experienced a high quality of care and support. Children had benefitted from the changes the childminder had made to the service following learning and development opportunities about a number of topics such as paediatric first aid and child protection. An action plan was in place to help the childminder plan these learning opportunities and we asked the childminder to develop this to include reading and implementing best practice guidance. As part of this action planning, the childminder should consider how well they are doing, how they know this and what they are going to do next. Any improvements should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-limited. This will ensure that children's care, play and learning experiences improve consistently over time.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - 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 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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