

Little Fawns Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 21 July 2021

Service provided by:
Stephanie Hammersley

Service provider number:
SP2017989578

Care service number:
CS2017362904

Introduction

Little Fawns childminding is provided by Stephanie Hammersley, (who will be referred to as the childminder in this report). The childminder registered with the Care Inspectorate on 3 April 2018 to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than six are under the age of 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school, of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family.

The service is based in a residential area of Dalkeith, Midlothian. It is close to local schools, shops and parks. The semi detached comprised of a living-room/dining area, family bathroom and garden for children to play in.

The aims of the service are:

- 'Ensure all children in my care feel safe, loved and happy by providing a home from home environment, carrying out risk assessments, attend courses, have all relevant insurances and adhering to current policies and regulations.
- Offer flexible hours and affordable childcare to cater to most families.
- Providing a business which parents can trust by encouraging involvement and communication in regards to childcare.
- Encourage independence and to give your children choice and freedom in all decision makings regarding snacks and daily activities
- Provide age appropriate toys and activities.
- No child will be restrained unless it is the only practical means of ensuring the welfare, safety and protection of the child/children involved'.

What we did during our inspection

We carried out an unannounced on-site inspection on 20 July 2021. We used emails and telephone calls to engage with the childminder and a parent as part of this process. We also assessed relevant documents we requested. Feedback was given to the childminder on 21 July 2021 by telephone.

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 for 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.

During this inspection we also evaluated 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.

Views of people using the service

When we visited the childminder's home, she was caring for two minded children as well as her own two children. It was clear that the children had formed closed friendships and the minded children were fond of the childminder. A child told us that they had 'lot of fun' and enjoyed 'drawing' the most. When asked they

confirmed they felt safe and happy at the childminder's home and would be confident in letting her know if they were 'sad or upset'.

Currently, one family use the service and their feedback included:

'I don't have a bad thing to say about Steph. We have known her for years and she is so good. She treats my children like her own and she is a doting mother. My eldest is often reluctant to leave. Steph sends me photographs of the girls playing which is great. I have no doubt that children have been kept safe during Covid-19, Steph is very cautious which is reassuring.

She knows my children and their stage of development very well. Even with the seven year age gap, she is able to accommodate that. They have become right little buddies with Steph's children and that is just great'.

Self assessment

A self assessment was not requested from the childminder prior to the inspection taking place.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a warm, welcoming and homely environment for the children she minded. She was friendly and approachable and the children present were seen to be relaxed and comfortable in her care throughout our inspection. The childminder knew the children well

What the service could do better

The childminder needs to ensure she has personal plans in place for all children she cares for which reflect their needs, choices and wishes and other key information. This is important to enable the childminder to support positive outcomes effectively for the children.

Moving forward the childminder should endeavour to increase her knowledge of current best practice documents and legislation, update and amend her policies accordingly. She should also ensure she completes Care Inspectorate annual returns when we request her to do so.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	3 - Adequate
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	3 - Adequate

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Children were relaxed, happy and busy in their play. The childminder supported them to develop positive relationships with each other creating a sociable and friendly experience. Children had developed positive attachments with the childminder, who provided cuddles and comfort for children when they needed this.

Sensitive settling-in arrangements had been put in place for new children, so that they got to know the childminder and felt safe and secure in their new environment. The childminder had completed an introduction to child protection training. This had helped them to have some understanding of safeguarding children.

The childminder had developed a positive relationship with the family who used her service and as a result they were able to share information with her, when they brought their child to the home. The childminder described how she worked in partnership with parents to meet and support children's individual needs. She spoke with parents on a daily basis and worked closely with them to make sure she was meeting their child's needs as best she could.

When first starting the service, the childminder gathered relevant information about children. She knew children well meaning she could respond to their individual personalities and offer responsive care and support. However, the childminder needs to ensure that she gathers more information to help her effectively plan for children's care. This may include more information about their routine, development, preferences, and interests. (See recommendation one).

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. In order to ensure children's needs are met, the childminder should ensure children's personal plans are reviewed with parents and children were appropriate, at least once every six months or sooner if there are any changes to a child's care or welfare. Children's personal care plans should contain all the relevant information including information on their health, welfare and safety needs and regular review of children's progress and any planned next steps to support their continued development.

This ensures that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standard which states that, as a child: 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15).

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder was kind towards the children and respected their choices, wishes and interests. The range of activities were age and stage appropriate and provided opportunities for the children to be creative and

have fun. Whilst we understood the need for a home from home environment, we have asked the childminder to ensure children have the room to play and eat at the dining table.

Direct access to the garden meant children could access fresh air and physical activity indoors and out as they pleased. Children enjoyed accessing the garden to the rear of the property, which provided a good space for them to be physically active and experience energetic play. We asked the childminder to consider the introduction of 'loose parts play' so that children have access to materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. Thus encouraging children's creativity, inquiry, and problem solving skills. We were confident that she would consider how she could further develop 'loose parts' resources and open-ended materials within the service.

Close supervision of children and involvement in their play helped keep children safe and added to their enjoyment and fun whilst promoting new learning and language. This was because the childminder built their capacity to problem solve through introducing further challenge in their play.

The childminder spoke clearly about the action she was taking to reduce the risk of infection of Covid-19. These included arrangements for dropping off and collecting children, ventilation and cleaning routines. The childminder was clear about symptoms of Covid-19 to look out for and spoke clearly about action she would take should she have concerns.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 3 - adequate

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

Children and families were respected as the childminder had developed positive and responsive communication methods to keep parents up to date on the service. The childminder offered a flexible, reliable service meaning parental choice and childcare needs were respected. Children's progress was celebrated with parents through the regular sharing of photographs.

We found the childminder to be committed to positive outcomes for children. The childminder should now develop her policies further to reflect current best practice. We reminded the childminder of the learning and development opportunities and links to good practice available on the internet, including making use of the

Care Inspectorate HUB. This would support her to develop different experiences and enhance the play and learning provided to children.

The childminder was fully engaged in the inspection process and was keen to hear our feedback. She showed a commitment to putting improvements in place to help further improve her setting and outcomes for children. After the inspection, we signposted the childminder to some resources and best practice guidance to support her development.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 3 - adequate

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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