

Acorn Childcare Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 17 August 2021

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2019990844

Care service number:
CS2019377416

Introduction

Mrs Tasker is registered 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 three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. From the date of registration until 31 August 2023 care may be provided to 1 child aged between 12 and 16 years. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The childminder's home is situated on the edge of a residential area of a town within walking distance of local amenities, play park and woodland walks.

The aims and objectives of the service include:

- to provide a reliable and friendly service to parent/carers, which ensures that their children are cared for in a safe and nurturing environment with play experiences of a holistic nature
- children and parent/carers will be respected, and their views valued to ensure a service that is meeting their needs.
- I will provide this service within my home and use local facilities, such as the park, outdoor areas, library and local groups to develop play and learning experiences that will complement the children's interests
- my home environment is a caring and nurturing space for children, in which I can promote activities such as crafts, baking and sensory activities such as sand, water and messy play.
- independence and respect for others are important values I share within my family and this will be encouraged for all children in my care.

What we did during our inspection

We compiled the report following an unannounced site visit to the service on 10 August 2021. During this inspection we spoke with the childminder and observed the care given by the childminder. We completed the inspection using telephone to seek the views of parents, and viewed written documentation, including health and wellbeing records, electronically. The inspection was carried out by one inspector.

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 GIRFEC; safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included (also known as SHANARRI).

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 Care and Support.

Views of people using the service

Parents told us that they were happy with the service. They spoke about the warm and responsive relationship that the childminder had with their child, and how their interactions were making a real difference to their child's development and progression. The childminder used different forms of communication that helped them to feel fully involved in their child's care. Children had a variety of experiences and they liked that the children were outside a lot unless the weather was very inclement,

indoors children had a variety of toys and a mix of creative and sensory play. Parents found the friendly and open approach of the childminder made it easy to comment on the service and put forward suggestions.

The young child attending the service appeared happy and confident, they told us they had been to see the cows and got some milk. When playing with a mix of toys set they named an aeroplane and told us 'flies in the sky' and also named some shapes and colours during their play.

Self assessment

Not requested

What the service did well

The childminder provided a stimulating, warm, nurturing service; they knew the children well and provided experiences that supported their development and learning. There was a substantial focus on outdoor play and experiences in all weathers as suitable clothing was always available, both at the service and in the wider community.

The childminder had established positive relationships with parents enabling them to work together and establish communication that was meaningful and effective and in the best interest of the child.

What the service could do better

The childminder consolidates a system of review that includes parents/carers and children (where possible), so that information held remains up to date and reflects each child's needs and interests.

The childminder intended to learn more about the forest school approach, so that outdoor play and learning could be developed further within the service.

We suggested that the childminder recorded changes to the service as they occurred to support continuous improvement and incorporated the views of parents and children in the process. The use of a simple improvement plan would be beneficial for the purposes of evaluation.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder's natural and attentive approach had helped the young minded child to build a positive relationship. The child was clearly comfortable, confident and happy in their surroundings.

The childminder had got to know children's needs, preferences and personalities well which helped them to provide responsive care. The child's personal plan consisted of key information such as health, family, likes/dislikes and interests. We advised the childminder that, undertaking a formal comprehensive review of the information with parents and children (where possible), a minimum of six monthly, supported a holistic approach to wellbeing. We also discussed how the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators and chronologies were beneficial tools for the purposes of, monitoring and assessment to help children with the right support at the right time. hub.careinspectorate.com

Parents told us that they were happy with the level of information shared; verbal discussion, a messaging application and sharing of photographs helped them to be involved in their child's care. Parents considered that they had seen their child make progress in a short period of time such as their speech, colours and letters, which they contributed to the fun play activities and interaction with the childminder.

The childminder listened respectfully to the child, they promoted activities that were fun and enjoyable. They had a good understanding of what children needed to grow and develop and the importance of play. The young child was having fun identifying different items from a mixed selection of building block play sets and putting them together. The childminder promoted outdoor play in the fresh air at the service and wider community in recognition of the benefits on children's health and wellbeing. Suitable arrangements were in place for meals, the child ate their packed lunch at the table, it was calm and pleasant. The child enjoyed the company of the childminder's own children and the childminder supported them well.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children. Such as, children being supported to wash their hands well and good ventilation of the premises.

The childminder had completed child protection training in their previous employment. However they planned to undertake refresher training provided by the local authority to help ensure that their knowledge and understanding was sound to safeguard children. We referred the childminder to the local authority child protection website, for relevant information and agency contact details, in the interim.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Children benefited from being cared for in a safe, clean and homely environment. A large bathroom situated downstairs was equipped with a changing table and changing mat, and toilet training potties. Disposable gloves and aprons were readily accessible and used to reduce the potential for infection. It also meant that hand washing could easily be facilitated that also promoted good practice. A travel cot was placed in a bedroom that enabled children to have a safe, calm and uninterrupted sleep. The childminder kept the premises and activities under regular review to assess risk.

The childminder had completed first aid training to ensure that they had appropriate knowledge to treat children should an accident occur. The childminder had a suitable format for recording accidents/incidents to ensure that correct information was held and exchanged with parents/carers.

Children were being cared for in a suitable and comfortable environment that contributed to their confidence and wellbeing. Play equipment and materials were readily accessible in storage units so that children could make their own choices. Space was being well utilised; the arrangement of furniture in the main lounge enabled children to enjoy floor activities such as; play sets and construction. A spacious hallway extended the play space, and there was a large wooden play kitchen for the children. The table in the kitchen was used for some table top activities and a tuff tray for messy and sensory play. A large garden with grass and a barked area was accessible from the kitchen/diner. It was well equipped with a wooden climbing frame where children could develop their physical strength and confidence. A den structure, wooden much kitchen that had a variety of real utensils and large tyre sand pit, supported children's imaginary and creative play..

The childminder recognised the benefits of outdoor play in the fresh air to support children's health, wellbeing and development. Children had wet weather clothing and welly boots, so that they were able to go out in all weathers. The minded child and the childminder's own children were looking forward to going on a woodland walk, even though it was a particularly dull and wet day. Children had visits in the community that included walks, play parks, natural environments such as the fairy woods, play areas focused on natural materials and a fun farm. This helped to support children's understanding of the wider world. The childminder was keen to further develop outdoor learning and embrace the forest school approach. They were looking forward to finding out more from local childminders who were completing forest school training.

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

Information from the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and the Care Inspectorate supported the childminder to keep up to date with new initiatives.

The childminder had completed some training with a view to improvement. The childminder had renewed her first aid training, food hygiene and had completed a child protection course in their previous employment; it helped her to meet children's health needs and keep them safe. Additional training had included a framework for evaluation, winter activities and a STEM activity pack. The childminder had started to think about a reflective evaluation of training and we discussed how this could be developed further.

We suggested that the childminder used a simple improvement plan to record changes as they occurred to support a continuous approach. This could be as a result of seeking the views of parents and or children, training or reading best practice guidance. Good practice guidance documents and the Care Inspectorate early years improvement programme, would also support reflection of practice, with a view to enhancing outcomes for children - hub.careinspectorate.com

The childminder had experience of working in a care environment and had completed a Scottish Vocational Qualification, level 3. The childminder was able to demonstrate that her previous skills and knowledge had been beneficial in the development of her childminding service both at a practical, child centred, and management level. Records were well organised, meaningful information was readily available. The childminder had developed relevant policies that supported her in running the service and provided a basis for evaluation. These were shared with parents so that they knew what to expect from the service.

The childminder was striving to provide a service that met the needs of families well. They clearly enjoyed their role as a childminder and embraced the opportunities it provided. Parents told us how the open and adaptable approach of the childminder had provided reassurance and also helped their child to settle quickly. They were happy with all aspects of the service and were able to see for themselves the difference it was making to their child's development and wellbeing.

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 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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