

Danderhall Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 20 August 2021

Service provided by:
Alana Paterson

Service provider number:
SP2018990234

Care service number:
CS2018371000

Introduction

Alana Paterson operates her childminding service under the name of Danderhall Childminding. She is registered with the following conditions:

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. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminders family.

The children have access to the sitting room, and supervised accessed to the kitchen, bathroom and a fully enclosed garden. The childminder's home is situated in Danderhall, Midlothian and is close to local amenities including the primary school, nursery and local parks.

The provider has been approved by the local authority to provide funded hours for Early Education and Childcare.

The aims and objectives as stated by the childminder include;

As a registered childminder I look after children in my home, I offer a flexible service to parents from Monday to Friday. I aim to provide a warm, safe and friendly, home from home environment where children can play, grow and learn whilst having lots of fun. I particularly enjoy outdoor play and try to take children out as much as possible. I enjoy cooking and baking and think children should learn these skills from an early age. I believe children should be able to choose what they want to do, from an appropriate age, and they should have every opportunity to do as they wish within pre- determined limits.

I aim to treat each child as an individual with specific needs and interests. Your child will be giving every encouragement to achieve their milestones with the provision of age and ability appropriate resources and activities. Each child will be encouraged to respect all other children with whom they come into contact. Physical violence is discouraged. Children will be taught to be responsible for their own actions.

I value both structure and flexible schedules. Sometimes these activities can be messy and so, whilst I will try my best to avoid it, children may not always be perfectly clean at the end of the day.

In caring for your children, I will endeavour to provide for their health, safety and happiness, in partnership with parents I will seek to assist their development emotionally, socially, physically and intellectually.

I will do this by providing an environment with a range of activities and experiences appropriate to their individual ages and stages of development.

To name a few;

- Risk assessment of the property have been carried out and an extensive health and safety policy with procedures in place.
- Children will have opportunities to socialise with other children in local organizations and activities.
- A variety of outdoor and indoor play experiences such as; walks to the the local park, short car trip to nearby country parks, beach visits, outdoor play, local library for book bug sessions and local playgroups this encourages a healthy lifestyle.
- I have a variety of toys and resources to cater for many types of play; toy kitchen and dress up for pretend and imaginative play, wooden and Lego style bricks for construction which aids fine motor skills and hand eye coordination. Jigsaws, puzzles, arts and crafts, cars, trains, dolls, and of course plenty of reading and picture books to develop language skills.

I will aim to keep up to date with new and current legislation, review my own practice regularly as well as following inspections from the care inspectorate.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC). This is 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. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

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.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection, which took place on Wednesday 11 August 2021 between 11:00 and 13:00. Four minded children were at the service as well as the childminders own two children. A further site visit took place on 20 August 2021 between 09:30 and 11:00 to observe practice and provide feedback to the childminder. One minded child was at the service during this time.

We spoke to:

- the childminder
- the children present.

We observed the childminder's practice and looked around the areas of her home used for childminding. We viewed some records on site that included personal plans, risk assessments and various policies and procedures.

Views of people using the service

The minded children were happy and comfortable in the care of the childminder. The atmosphere meant that children had fun and experienced positive interactions with the childminder. Toys and games were readily available so children could choose what they wanted to do.

We asked the childminder to issue an e-mail to parents requesting feedback about her service. One parent contacted us regarding the service. They were happy with the quality of service that they and their children received from the childminder. They were well informed about what their children were doing every day and felt that the childminder knew their children well.

They feel comfortable making suggestions about their child's care and feel that the childminder is friendly and approachable.

The children also commented and told us they enjoyed their time at the service.

Self assessment

The childminder had previously submitted a Key Question 5 self-evaluation. This contained a range of information about how she supported children and families during Covid-19.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a warm and nurturing environment for children. Children's individuality was taken into account when their care was provided.

What the service could do better

We have asked the childminder to continue to develop her service by reviewing paperwork including personal plans, policies and procedures to ensure they are relevant and up to date.

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	3 - Adequate

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder was kind and caring to the minded children. She had built a positive relationship with them and knew their needs, likes and dislikes. Her interactions were gentle and she encouraged children to play well together.

Personal plans were in place for each child. However, these contained only very basic registration information. The childminder is aware that these need to be further developed. She should develop the information on each child to contain personal goals or areas where more support is needed. The childminder may also wish to track children's development and use observation and next steps to progress children's individual learning.

The childminder had built up good communication links with families using her service. Regular contact was maintained through door step chats that were strengthened by using online platforms such as WhatsApp and Facebook. This gave the opportunity for real time information to be shared and pictures of the child's day.

The childminder understood her responsibility 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.

Parents provided children's lunch and some snacks. This meant that children received their preferred food. During the first inspection visit, lunch time became task orientated due to the number of children all eating together. The childminder was aware that she needed to review mealtimes to provide a more relaxed and social occasion for the children. The childminder had fruit available on a daily basis and supported children to try different food. Children also had the opportunity to plant, grow and pick fruit and vegetables. This introduced the children to the achievement of growing healthy food.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children. These included supporting children with hand washing and introducing doorstep drop off and pick ups. Written procedures and risk assessment had been shared with parents based on national guidance. This ensured families were aware of the changes made to the setting and helped to keep them safe through the pandemic.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminders home was comfortable and organised to allow children to independently access a variety of resources. This encouraged children to make choices and promoted their independence. The childminder told us that she had a range of toys and resources suitable for all children who attended. The children were confident to ask the childminder for toys they wanted to play with.

The children told us about visits to the local parks and walks along the cycle path. The childminder ensured that children were exploring the outdoors which contributed to children remaining safe and healthy.

The garden provided further opportunities for children to access the outdoor environment. Children enjoyed playing in the wooden house, using the mud kitchen and had access to a range of loose part materials. The childminder sensitively supported the children to share, take turns and develop their confidence.

In line with current Covid-19 guidelines the childminder understood the importance of ventilation, and windows were open to allow the flow of fresh air throughout the living room. Risk assessments had been undertaken and procedures had been shared with parents that ensured families using the service remained safe.

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

We found the quality of management and leadership was adequate. Improvements to some areas will maximise children's wellbeing and ensure continued positive experiences and outcomes for children using the service.

The childminder had established working relationships with the parents/carers of the children using her service. She was aware of the importance of seeking parents'/carers' and children's views as to the quality of the service and plans to take measures to formalise this process.

The childminder had undertaken her childcare qualification as part of the agreement with the local authority to provide funded Early Education and Childcare hours. She should now begin to use the knowledge gained from this course to make improvements to her service.

We have asked the childminder to review her service to ensure she is providing good quality outcomes for children. The childminder had a wide range of policies and procedures, although these were comprehensive we found that they did not always reflect the service she provided.

We advised the childminder to address the areas for improvement identified during this inspection and organise systems to evaluate and improve her service. (see recommendation 1)

To support the development of the service and reflective practice, we advised the childminder to review the Quality Framework to develop self-evaluation processes. Further professional development would enhance this area including researching best practice documents to improve practice.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1.

To improve outcomes for children, the childminder should develop a quality assurance system to address the areas for improvement identified in this inspection report and to evaluate and improve her service.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that "I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed" (HSCS 4.23).

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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