

Wee Bairns Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 16 December 2021

Service provided by:
Nikki Hatfield

Service provider number:
SP2019990484

Care service number:
CS2019374312

Introduction

This childminding service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 26 June 2019.

Nikki Hatfield, working as Wee Bairns Childminding, is registered to provide a childminding service. The service is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than 3 are not yet of an age to attend primary school, and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The service is located in a residential area of Dumfries. The childminder provides her service from her home, which has a secure, well-resourced garden. The childminder's home is within easy walking distance of schools and parks.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection, which took place on Monday 6 December 2021, and was followed up with a virtual meeting when feedback was given on Thursday 16 December 2021.

We contacted six parents from the service who gave us feedback which showed that parents were very happy with the quality of care and support provided. Parents' comments are included in this report.

In this inspection, we gathered evidence from various sources, including the relevant sections of policies, procedures, records and other documents, including:

- Children's records and folders
- Policies and procedures including child protection, complaints
- Photographs
- Observations of how the children interacted with one another and with the childminder
- Observations of how the children used the toys, and the space in the childminder's home
- Examining equipment and the environment
- Talking to the childminder, parents and the children.

Views of people using the service

Observation of the young children present during our visit showed us that they were settled and secure in the childminder's care. They were clearly at home there and played together very well.

Parents told us:

"I feel Nikki has gone to great lengths to get to know me and my child. The paperwork provided as part of her service is thorough and allowed me to write in all my daughter's needs. Nikki has proven time and time again to be extremely responsive in all manners of communication. I really struggled to let go as a mummy so this has helped me. I love the photo updates on the app"

"My child loves going to Nikki and I'm happy that they're settled and enjoying their place there. I like that Nikki does a lot of activities with them - both fun and educational."

"Nikki is a wonderful childminder and friend to us all. She's an invaluable part of our extended family and we feel that there is nobody else who would make our child feel safe and welcome as well as stimulated and

minded. We are more than happy with her communication which has always been excellent and our child enjoys every minute in her care. We cannot ask for more from her."

"Our children are very happy and settled in Nikki's care. We love the warm welcome they receive on arrival and they are eager to go and play. It's a friendly home from home environment, just what we were looking for. The activities provided by Nikki are very appropriate, our child has had so many new sensory experiences that we haven't given them at home (tactile/messy play) and this is great."

"I get a sincere feeling that Nikki's minding kids are extensions of her own family and this has been obvious in the detailed protective Covid mitigations and reassurance. Nikki's knowledge and experience in the sector is evident in the range of activities offered. It is always carefully planned and well thought out. I see evidence of this through the many photos and reports sent via email."

Self assessment

We did not request a self-assessment from the childminder before the inspection. Issues relating to how parents and children are involved in decisions within the service and the quality of the service's health and safety records are considered within the report.

What the service did well

The childminder provides a very good service to parents and children. Children are very well supported and have a wide variety of fun experiences which enable them to develop as confident, happy and healthy individuals. The childminder keeps up to date and ensures that the relevant guidance for her service is followed so that parents are confident that their children are cared for in a safe and clean environment.

What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to reflect on and develop her service as she is doing.

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

Children were cared for with warmth and affection. The childminder worked in partnership with parents and had developed friendly relationships with them. This meant that she knew them and their children very well and ensured she had the information she needed to support the children as they developed. Parents told us that the childminder knew their children "extremely well. Nikki has been a very familiar face to us all and

goes out of her way to know how we are during any events or times in our family life."

The childminder supported children very well. Children had a wide variety of opportunities to explore, make sense of the world around them and be creative. The childminder listened to the children and provided choices which showed that she valued their opinions. During our visit, the children wanted to make playdough and did this following a pictorial recipe card, measuring out all the ingredients with the right support and encouragement. Children's achievements were praised, and they were included and involved in the childminder's home routines, for example tidying up after they made the playdough.

All children had personal plans which contained detailed information, gathered directly from parents or through observation of and conversations with the children themselves. Children's folders told the story of how they had developed during their time in her care effectively and were shared with parents regularly. Parents told us that they received "daily updates via the activity report. Really detailed and it's just great to hear what she has been progressing with when we are not with her and in a different setting. Also, if need be, information is passed on at pick up." We discussed streamlining the way that information was recorded to avoid duplication and make things easier for everyone.

At the time of the inspection, children's meals were provided by their parents and the childminder provided snack. We sat with the childminder and children during snack and observed children's independence being encouraged as they prepared food themselves, poured their own drinks and then loaded the dishwasher afterwards. We saw that the childminder was an effective role model and supported the children in conversation, as well as with their other skills.

The childminder was very aware of her responsibility for keeping children safe. She had completed relevant training and had a very good understanding of child protection. We were confident that the childminder was committed to her role and responsibilities in safeguarding children.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Children were cared for in a warm, friendly, and safe environment. The childminder ensured that her home was clean, tidy and smoke-free. Windows were kept open so that there was good ventilation. Children were encouraged to look after toys and tidy up when they were finished. There were a wide variety of toys and games which were developmentally appropriate and supported children to build knowledge, skills and develop curiosity.

There was a secure outdoor area to the rear of the property which provided children with daily opportunities

to be energetic outdoors. Children had very regular opportunities to explore the local area when they went on walks to nearby parks and places of interest. These provided opportunities for children to think about their own safety when out and about for example learning how to cross the roads safely and also to assess risk for themselves.

We were satisfied that the childminder was following good practice for keeping children safe generally and during Covid 19. She had written risk assessments which had been updated to take account of the pandemic. We have asked the childminder to continue to review these and ensure that they are personal to her service. These had been shared with parents who told us that the childminder "provides an excellent service. She is professional and always upholds rules and regulations especially the last 2 years through Covid. She keeps you well informed and is approachable. My child is very safe in her care and loves going to her house which to me speaks volumes."

Appropriate infection control procedures and practices were in place to ensure that the children were cared for in a safe environment. The children were supported to understand the need for good hand washing and keeping things clean. Children were encouraged and supported to wash their hands at different times during the day including before and after eating, and after being to the toilet.

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 childminder had a very professional approach to her role working with children, was aware of her statutory responsibilities and was committed to the development of her service. She had used quality indicators to evaluate her service and had involved parents and children in assuring the quality of what she provided by talking to them and using surveys. This had resulted in an action plan which told us how she was planning for the continuous improvement of her service.

The childminder had a positive attitude to her own personal development, and she thought about her own practice. She had attended a variety of training opportunities both virtually and in person including Child Protection and was interested in further opportunities, which would help her to develop her practice. The childminder had recently entered into partnership with the local authority to provide funded 1140 hours. She

valued the support she received from development staff and other childminders. Her action plan contained further information about how she planned to develop as a practitioner.

The childminder listened to the children very well and used their ideas to plan interesting, and fun experiences. The childminder also consulted with children so that they were able to influence the plan for the day. For example, children were regularly asked what they wanted to do and what they wanted for snack, and this showed that she valued and respected children's opinions. Parents told us that they had found her to be "extremely responsive and has actioned any amendments or suggestions from us at home!"

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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