

La Farandole Child Minding

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)
Inspection completed on: 16 December 2021

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2018989788

Care service number:
CS2018365608

Introduction

La Farandole has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since 2018.

The childminder is currently registered provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children up to 16 years of age these numbers include the children of the childminder's family: of those 6 no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and; of those 3 no more than 1 is under 12 months.

Other conditions unique to the service: Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate. No overnight care will be provided.

Between 17/06/2021 and 17/06/2022 La Farandole will not be operational as the Care Inspectorate has agreed to treat it as inactive. Should the provider wish to resume this service prior to 17/06/2022 they must contact the Care Inspectorate.

The service is provided from the childminder's home, which is located within a residential area of Comrie. The main areas used to provide the service are the kitchen and lounge area which is open plan and downstairs toilet. Children do not have access to a garden but have visit woods across the road and parks close by to the property.

The childminder provided a service to 2 registered children throughout the week.

What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following a short- announced inspection, which took place on 9 December 2021. We gave feedback to the childminder at the end of the inspection on 16 December 2021. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate early learning and childcare inspector.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (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 and are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

Views of people using the service

There were four minded children present at the time of inspection, two were the childminders own children, they played happily together and independently during the inspection.

They told us:

'I like to play princesses and kings';

'I'm going to change the weather, with my magic weather changing wand, look!';

'It's actually just a weather changer';

'I like it here as I live right next door';

'I like going to the woods, it's fun';

'We have lots of fun';

'There is a big rainbow over there';

'He does not want to sit here, he likes his own chair';
 'Choo Choo';
 'Car';
 'It was my friend's birthday at school today';
 'We get biscuits and fruit';
 'I ask for tangerines, I love them';
 'These look funny and are really tasty'.

We spoke with one parent during the inspection, they told us that they were very happy with the quality of the care provided. Additional comments included:

'Lucie is a lovely lady, we are impressed with the service';
 'There are always planned activities which I would never think of doing and my children really enjoy taking part in them';
 'We're very grateful to have her, we've struck it lucky';
 'Really happy with the service that Lucie provides our family with';
 'The children very much enjoy the baking activities and they have made a mudslide down the hill, which was great fun';
 'She's really doing a fantastic job';
 'My children have huge admiration for her';
 'Lucie provides a very nurturing atmosphere'.

Self assessment

An up-to-date self-assessment was not requested for this inspection.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a good standard of care for the children and their family based on their individual needs. She had established strong and trusting relationships with them. The environment was interesting and exciting for children which supported their curiosity and imagination very well.

What the service could do better

The childminder should think about how she could use the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators to monitor children's progression in learning and development. Policies and procedures could be further developed. The childminder should start to gather the views of the children and their family to inform service improvements.

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	3 - Adequate

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We made an evaluation of good for this quality theme, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on children's experiences.

The childminder was caring and kind in her approach. The minded children were happy and relaxed in her care. The children confidently approached the childminder for support, she responded by getting down to their level and provided cuddles when needed. This told us children felt included and safe.

Children had developed positive relationships. We saw minded children play well with the childminder's own two children. They were able to make choices in their play and took part in a wide range of experiences which supported them to achieve. We heard lots of laughter; children were having fun together.

The childminder provided snacks for the children and was knowledgeable on allergies and dietary requirements. The children had a biscuit and chose from a variety of fruits. A choice of interesting nuts promoted discussions on healthy eating and the childminder skilfully supported the children to open the nutshells with a nutcracker. One child told us 'These look funny and are really tasty'. We found snack time was a happy, fun and sociable experience.

We looked at children's personal care plans. We noted that some key information had not been recorded. We signposted the childminder to Care Inspectorate guidance 'Guide for providers on personal planning: early learning and childcare' Information can be found here: www.hub.careinspectorate.com. The childminder had ensured this information was in place before the inspection was concluded.

We suggested to the childminder that she take observations on children's development and learning and link them to the wellbeing indicators to inform next steps. This would help her to identify how she can best support children to achieve their full potential. Sharing this information with parents regularly would help continue to build on the positive relationships within the service (see recommendation 1).

We were satisfied that the childminder had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children. For example, we found the minded children being supported to understand the need for good hand hygiene.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. Children's personal care plans need to be further developed to reflect their learning and progress.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: '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

We made an evaluation of very good for this quality theme where major strengths supported positive outcomes for people.

Children benefited from a welcoming, homely, safe and clean environment. The childminder routinely checked the house before the arrival of children and the appropriate risk assessments were in place to minimise potential hazards and meet children's needs.

Children had access to a wealth of natural materials and interesting open-ended resources. When we arrived, the children were playing pirates and had used bits of material to make their costumes. They had collected lots of natural resources from their walks and used them during their play. We found children's imagination, curiosity and creativity was very well supported.

The childminder had developed quiet and cosy areas, which was used by a child who sat contently listening to an audio story book. Providing these spaces supported children to seek out a quiet space where they could relax and have some individual time when needed. This told us children felt safe and secure.

The childminder told us the children held their own concerts and we saw a variety of musical instruments were on offer. The children supported each other to use them effectively and we heard them singing and creating music together. This contributed positively to them developing their creative skills whilst building their confidence and self-esteem.

The children did not have access to a garden, however, the childminder made good use of local woods and parks. She was an advocate for the outdoors and ensured they went out on daily walks, we saw pictures of children having fun on a mudslide they had made. This provided children with opportunities to investigate and explore their local community and engage with their natural environment.

In addition to this, the children could play on a swing attached to a door frame. We saw they put down a safety mat on the floor and pushed each other on the swing. Older children supported a younger child to ensure they did not fall off. Children were learning to manage risk in play appropriately.

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

We made an evaluation of adequate for this quality theme. While strengths had a positive impact, key areas needed to improve.

The childminder accessed information from The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and Care Inspectorate Hub for information on how to keep her service current and up to date.

The childminder had developed some policies and procedures that she shared with parents on starting the service. We asked that the childminder further develop these and create some new policies to support service delivery. For example, an outdoor play policy due to not having a garden space. This would ensure parents knew what to expect from all aspects of the service provided. We asked the childminder to ensure that policies and procedures reflect current best practice guidance and review them annually. This will ensure parents receive up to date information (see recommendation 1).

The childminder had formed trusting relationships with the family using her service. The childminder used daily discussions and WhatsApp to share information. This had ensured good communication systems between them, which resulted in them feeling included in their children's day.

As the childminder had not been operating for long, she had not gathered the views of the children or their family to develop and improve the service. We discussed various methods that could be used to gather evaluative information on the service. We suggested that she use feedback to ensure children and families are influencing positive change and feel included in the service provided (see recommendation 2).

The childminder was knowledgeable on how to keep children safe from risk and harm, however, she had not attended any other recent training. We asked that she further develop her skills and knowledge of childcare through training and self-directed reading and research (see recommendation 3).

We discussed with the childminder the benefits of keeping a learning log. This would identify future training needs and help reflect how training had impacted positively on the quality of service provided.

This was the childminder's first inspection; she was open to professional discussion about how to make improvements to her service. We signposted her to guidance on the Care Inspectorate HUB to support her in delivering positive outcomes for children. Information to support this can be found here: www.hub.careinspectorate.com

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 3

1. The childminder should further develop the policies and procedures of the service and review these annually. This is to ensure parents are clear on what to expect from the service and are provided with current information.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice' (HSCS 4.11).

2. The childminder should find ways of gathering the views of the children and their families to self-evaluate her service and use this information to inform service improvements.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'I am actively encouraged to be involved in improving the service I use, in spirit of genuine partnership' (HSCS 4.7).

3. The childminder should continue to develop her skills and knowledge through further training, self-directed reading, and research of current good practice guidance.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes' (HSCS 3.14).

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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