

Sarah Hall Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 5 May 2022

Service provided by:
Sarah Hall

Service provider number:
SP2019990737

Care service number:
CS2019376742

Introduction

Sarah Hall provides a childminding service from her property in a quiet residential areas of Dalkeith. The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family.

The setting is close to local primary school, shops, parks and other amenities. The children are cared for in the kitchen/diner which has a dedicated play space and sofa for children, living room and down stairs bathroom. Children also have access to an enclosed rear garden.

What we did during our inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 4 May 2022 between 14:00 and 16:00. One inspector carried out the inspection. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included the registration information, information submitted by the childminder and intelligence gathered throughout the year. To inform our evaluation we:

- Spoke to the childminder and observed her practice.
- Accompanied the childminder to collect the minded children from school.
- Spoke to the three minded children.
- gathered parents views via emails.
- Looked at the areas used for childminding.
- Reviewed documents.

Views of people using the service

There were three minded children and the childminder's own two children present during the inspection visit. Children were happy and settled. Children made choices about how they spent their time in the home and freely chose what to play with. They told us:

'I like to do painting and Hama beads'.

'I like playing on the trampoline, swing and mud kitchen'.

We sent an email via the childminder to families using the service asking them to provide us with feedback about their experience of using the service. The one respondent was complimentary of the service they and their family received from the childminder. They were particularly pleased with the relationship that their family had built with the childminder.

Self assessment

We did not request a self-assessment document from the childminder. We considered improvement planning and self-evaluation within the theme of management and leadership.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a very good standard of care through their nurturing approach and the responsive relationships with children and families.

Experiences and learning were child-led which enabled children to develop their natural curiosity, creativity, imagination and social skills.

Personal plans were in place for each child containing important information on their individual care needs.

What the service could do better

Moving forward, the childminder should consider how she can further involve parents in the completion of personal plans.

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

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this quality theme as very good.

The childminder demonstrated a nurturing and respectful ethos through her warm and caring approach towards children. This enabled children to build positive relationships which supported them to feel loved, valued and respected. The childminder knew children's routines well and spoke confidently about how she supported and met their needs. We observed high quality interactions between the children and childminder.

Children's care and learning routines were individual to their needs and was delivered with kindness and compassion. This was evident in the childminder's interactions, the telling us of children's needs and in children's written records. Children's overall wellbeing was supported through effective use of personal planning.

Parent's input was central to ensuring important information was sought from and shared with them to promote consistency and continuity of care. This enabled the childminder to respond quickly, sensitively and compassionately to changes in a child's life. A parent told us, 'I think Sarah is highly experienced so I think in future at times I might ask her for advice about my child given she now knows them better'.

Through regular discussions and the use of technology, families were involved in supporting their child's learning and development in the childminding setting. This was confirmed by a parent who told us, 'photos are sent and text messages to update me on how their time went which I very much appreciate and enjoy getting'. The childminder should consider how she could further develop this so there was a structured engagement. For example, now Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, holding meetings with parents to update their child's personal plans.

Children's learning and play was captured in a floor book which supported the childminder to plan the next steps in learning and provide play experiences around children's interests and needs.

Transitions into and out of the setting were supported well. Children and families were encouraged to settle at their own pace, recognising the uniqueness of each child and the importance of attachments. The childminder had built positive working relationships with the local school and nursery. This promoted effective communication to ensure key information was shared. As a result, children and families were supported to feel confident and secure as they moved to a new setting.

Children experienced warm and caring daily routines that recognised the opportunity to promote close attachments. For example, mealtimes were calm and unhurried and seen as a positive social experience. The childminder sat beside children, offering support when required and engaging in conversation. This contributed to children's emotional security throughout their meal time experience and overall health and wellbeing.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this theme as very good.

The homely environment made it comfortable and welcoming and sent a strong message that it was a place where children would be loved and could have fun. The childminder made very good use of the space available both indoors and outdoors. The rooms she used were bright and child friendly. The designated play space contained a very good selection of toys and resources. The layout and storage of resources enabled children to be independent and make choices about where and what they played with. To extend and meet their interests, children had recently made a cafe in the play area. Outdoors, a kitchen provided children with hands on exploration through sensory play, role play, imaginative play and maths. Children were able to experience risk in their play on the trampoline and swings. With pride and knowledge, the

children told us all about the pumpkin seeds they had recently planted. A parent told us, 'Sarah provides a relaxed environment and the children love when they do baking activities'.

We found the house to be clean and tidy and the childminder spoke about keeping children safe by following best practice guidance. The childminder was conscientious about her responsibilities to look after children safely and supported them to learn about their own safety and awareness of risk.

The childminder provided opportunities for children to enjoy the natural outdoor environment through walks to parks, and other places of interest. This supported the development of social skills, confidence and helped children learn about their own personal safety.

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 found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this theme as very good.

The childminder had a professional approach towards her role with a drive to deliver a high standard of care. The childminder was organised and had effective systems in place that enabled them to manage their policies and paperwork. We found the childminder to be proactive in the development of the service, with the needs of children and their family at the heart of her decisions. She was able to demonstrate her awareness and commitment to keeping up-to-date with changes and developments which reflected best practice and current legislation.

Self-directed research, reading and training confirmed the childminder's commitment to providing children with a high standard of care. The childminder had undertaken a variety of training opportunities to ensure that she had the knowledge and skills to offer high quality care and experiences for the children. Recent training on writing observations of children in their play had resulted in the childminder making positive changes to the information she recorded about children.

The childminder regularly carried out self-evaluation of her service which enabled her to assess the quality

of care and to plan for improvements. The writing of an improvement plan gave detailed information on how she planned to improve her service. Improvements included attending training on schematic play to give the childminder increased confidence in supporting children to interpret and understand the world around them through play.

Families were able to gain a clear understanding of how the service operated. The childminder provided them with detailed policies and procedures prior to starting. A settling in questionnaire asked for feedback from children and their parents on the process which ensured continuity of children's care needs.

The childminder was confident and knowledgeable of the latest guidance in relation to child development and keeping children safe. The childminder was able to demonstrate her ability to recognise and act on any care and development needs children may have. This ensured children were protected and safe in the childminder's care.

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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Care Inspectorate
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11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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