

Jodie's Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 30 May 2022

Service provided by:
Jodie Gauld

Service provider number:
SP2020991435

Care service number:
CS2020381608

Introduction

Jodie's Childminding service provides a care service for children. It is located in a quiet residential area in Portlethen. The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than 6 are under 12 years, 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 own children.

The service is close to local primary schools, shops, parks and amenities. The children are cared for and access the living room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom and a dedicated playroom/cabin with toilet facilities. Children also have access to an enclosed rear garden.

What we did during our inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 26 May 2022 between 09:45 and 13:30. One inspector carried out the inspection. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about the service. This included registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluations we:

- spoke with two children using the service and had feedback from two parents/carers
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Views of people using the service

There were two children aged 2 years, attending the service during the inspection visit. They were happy, relaxed and settled in the childminding environment. They chose where to play and the toys that interested them.

Two parents gave us feedback on the service. They spoke very positively of the service and the childminder.

Self assessment

A self-assessment was not requested prior to the inspection.

What the service did well

Positive relationships had been established with the families that used the service, which supported the childminder to effectively share information and provide a continuity of care. She knew the children in her

care and was supporting them well. The childminder supported children to lead their play which enabled them to be independent and experience learning that was meaningful.

What the service could do better

The childminder should develop ways to formally evaluate her service. This would allow her to identify and build upon strengths and plan improvements. To support children's creativity and imaginative skills the childminder should develop more opportunities for loose-parts play, and open-ended resources.

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	4 - 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 quality of care and support as very good.

The childminder knew the children in her care well and spoke about their interests, care needs and personalities with confidence. She told us how she was supporting their development and progression through a variety of play experiences. Children were seen to be confident around the childminder and within her home, which highlighted that they felt safe and secure. We observed the childminder to be nurturing in her approach, with interactions gentle and responsive to children's needs. The childminder was observed to have a good understanding of child development which supported her to implement quality play experiences and adapt learning based on children's needs.

Personal plans were in place for children and were regularly reviewed with parents so children's progress and changing needs were recognised. The childminder documented how she was meeting children's needs and progress within their learning. This allowed her to plan individualised experiences and care for children.

A 'family app' captured children's learning and the daily opportunities they had at the service. The childminder made links to learning frameworks which supported her to extend children's learning and help them to progress. Parents could access the app which ensured they felt included in their child's day and well informed. We asked that the childminder develop ways to document the learning and experiences of school aged children. We suggested using floor books, which would support her to capture significant learning and children's progress.

She had developed very good relationships with parents and communicated well with them to support and

meet children's needs. The childminder told us that she had daily discussions with parents and used WhatsApp to share information about their child.

The childminder was aware of best practice guidance regarding healthy eating. She provided healthy meals and snacks for the children, offered fruit every day and took account of individual dietary requirements. We observed the childminder sitting with children during mealtimes which promoted a positive social experience. Children were supported to develop self help skills which encouraged them to be independent. For example, they helped to make their own sandwiches, spreading and adding fillings.

The childminder was confident in her responsibilities in keeping children safe. She had undertaken child protection training and knew the procedure to follow should she be concerned about a child. Although no medication was being administered currently, there was a recording system in place to be completed should a child require medication.

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 the environment as very good.

The childminder's home was observed to be a clean and safe environment for the children attending her service. She carried out both visual and written risk assessments for all areas. These ensured risks to children were minimised. Dedicated play spaces had been developed which provided children with ownership of their setting. We saw that children were confident and having fun within their environment and lead their play.

A variety of quality resources supported children's learning and allowed them choice in what they played with. These included books, board games, arts and crafts, music, small world toys and some open-ended materials. These were easily accessible to children which enabled them to have choice in what they played with. Free flow between play environments supported children's independence and choice in where they played and allowed them to follow their interests.

An enclosed garden ensured children could safely access outdoor play activities. The childminder told us that children accessed outdoor experiences daily, allowing them to be active and access fresh air, which supported healthy lifestyles. Opportunities to participate in trips within the local community enabled children to experience learning beyond the setting.

The childminder was beginning to develop loose parts and open-ended resources which supported children to develop creativity and problem-solving skills. She had a good awareness of the benefit these had on children's learning and experiences, which allowed her to identify this as an area she would like to develop further. She had been sourcing new resources which would enhance children's experiences. We suggested sharing plans with children and parents to include them in developments within the service.

Good infection control measures were in place to create a clean and safe environment for children. Children were encouraged to wash their hands prior to eating and after toileting, and procedures such as the use of apron and gloves by the childminder when needed, supported to minimise the risk of infection.

We found that the childminder had a very good understanding of risk benefit play. Children were involved in discussions about how to keep safe, and offered opportunities to challenge themselves through a range of experiences, for example, tree climbing. This enabled the children to make informed decisions about risks and provided them with confidence in managing risks themselves.

Nappy changing and personal care was carried out in a way that supported privacy and dignity. The childminder followed best practice guidance to ensure that children who slept did so safely. We observed sleep times to be a calm and nurturing experience for children.

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 evaluated management and leadership as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

As a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA), the childminder received information that kept her updated with best practice and legislation. She had an awareness of the government's initiative, Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and had taken account of this guidance in her service. We discussed the Care Inspectorate Hub and the childminder told us she used this to familiarise herself with

current guidance and best practice documents.

Core training had been accessed to support keep knowledge and practice current. We suggested that as part of her professional development she identify targeted training to develop knowledge and skills that would support her with her identified improvements. The childminder shared that she had regular opportunities to meet with childminding colleagues to share ideas and discuss practice. As she is new to her role, she found it beneficial to have a support network in place.

The childminder told us that through reflecting on her practice she was able to identify strengths and areas for improvement within the service. We discussed documenting self-evaluation and developments. This would support her to assess current provision and measure the impact of changes. We suggested that she use, 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged children', which would assist with self-evaluation.

Through questionnaires and regular chats, parents were encouraged to remain involved in assessing the quality of the care, support and service provided to them and their children. This helped them to express their views and support improvements. We discussed how the childminder could develop this further to include parents and children's views and ideas within improvements of the service.

Good quality assurance systems were in place which ensured the childminder was regularly assessing and reflecting upon the service. This meant that children's plans, service policies and procedures were current and relevant. Policies and procedures were shared with parents which kept them informed about the service.

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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