

Little Gigglers Childcare Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 19 May 2022

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2011982205

Care service number:
CS2011285908

Introduction

The Care Inspectorate (CI) regulates care services in Scotland. Information in relation to all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 8 November 2011.

Little Giggles Childcare (Sharon McRoberts) provides a childminding service from her home in the town of Crookedholm, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children under the age of 16 years, 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 childminder's family.

Lauren McRoberts is employed as an assistant. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the registration certificate.

The childminder was seen to provide a warm, welcoming and homely environment for children in her care. We found her friendly and approachable. We viewed one child who was present during the inspection to be relaxed, happy and enjoying their time there.

What we did during our inspection

We carried out an unannounced inspection of the childminding service on Thursday 5 May 2022 and Thursday 19 May 2022. Feedback was given 19 May 2022. The inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

During the inspection we gathered evidence from a number of sources, including the following:

We observed and viewed:

- the environment,
- the childminder's practice and interactions with the children,
- six children at play.

We looked at the following evidence:

- children's records,
- policies and procedures,
- registration certificate and public liability insurance certificate.

We met with the childminder and her assistant.

Views of people using the service

During the inspection visit, we observed six children that were present and we saw that they were settled, happy and confident in the childminder's home. We could see that the childminder had developed a caring friendly relationship with them.

As part of the inspection process we asked some parents to share their feedback. All of the parents we consulted with were very happy with the care their children received from the childminder and her assistant.

Some of the comments received included: 'Sharon is a fantastic childminder. I have worked in several early years settings in the past so was apprehensive about leaving my daughter in someone else's care but from day one Sharon has made the whole experience fantastic', and 'My daughter is always happy, well fed and looked after whilst at Sharon's'.

Self assessment

The service was not asked to submit a self assessment prior to the inspection

What the service did well

The childminder had established close relationships with children and families, which enabled them to provide a nurturing and homely service. The childminder was committed to providing the best possible experience for children and was keen to continue to develop the service.

What the service could do better

The childminder should consider extending the range of natural, real life and open-ended resource available. This would support the development of children's imagination and their skills in investigation and problem solving.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	4 - Good
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The quality of care and support has been evaluated as very good. We found that there were major strengths in supporting positive outcomes for children.

We observed the childminder to be caring and nurturing with the children, which helped them to feel secure and included within the setting. Warm and sensitive interactions between children and the childminder supported positive relationships. Parents who responded to our consultation also confirmed this, one parent told us 'I wouldn't trust my son with anyone else. He adores her and I know Sharon and Lauren's feelings are mutual with him. I feel lucky and blessed to have them supporting me in the upbringing of my son'.

The childminder and her assistant knew children well. Detailed personal plans were in place for each child to ensure they received the care and support that was right for them. All parents told us that they had contributed to their child's plan and believed this helped meet their needs, one parent told us 'we have updated their personal plan quite regularly to make sure everything is up to date for them and also just in case there is anything new for the childminder to know about or any changes to their diet and/or health'.

Children's development and progression was well supported by the childminder. Progress was shared with parents in regular update reviews. This meant parents were well informed on their child's achievements and promoted working together to meet children's individual needs .

The childminder and her assistants took time to find out children's interests and created play and learning opportunities for each child. One parent told us, 'my child enjoys outings to the local parks, baking, messy play, construction. The list is endless. I have also noticed Sharon rotates her toys so the children do not lose interest'.

Children were kept safe by the childminder and her assistant as they had a clear understanding of their role and responsibility to protect them. Detailed safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures were in place to keep children protected from harm.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

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's home was bright, clean and airy. This contributed to a welcoming environment for children with enough space for children to play and relax. The childminder informed us that she used some loose parts and natural materials with the children, and we could see some examples of this in her back garden . However, we suggested that she has a look at the loose parts toolkit to develop this further and enhance children's development and learning through loose parts play.

This would support children to develop their problem-solving skills and spark curiosity in their play experiences. <https://www.playscotland.org/loose-parts-play-toolkit/>

Community outings to places of interest, such as local parks encouraged energetic play. Regular outdoor play positively contributed to children's good health and wellbeing. Children enjoyed being part of the local toddler group. This experience helped them to make new friends, develop social and communication skills and appreciate the benefits of being part of their local community. One parent told us, 'They go to mums and toddlers, play parks, learning walks. (Dean Park) soft play'.

The childminder told us that visual checks of their home were carried out prior to children arriving and throughout the course of the day to ensure areas were safe. This helped protect children and keep them safe. The childminder has agreed to ensure the garden is considered as part of this routine. While risk assessments were in place, we discussed a few minor repair issues within the garden area, prior to feedback the childminder confirmed these had been removed or repaired.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

The childminders assistant's role was on a flexible arrangement and supported the childminder only occasional to meet the needs of the service, usually at busier times. However, we found the assistant had developed strong, positive relationships and attachments with the children and families which helped the children to feel safe, secure, and happy. Parents confirmed this by telling us, 'I am aware of the assistant and my daughter regularly asks for her too and I know she is happy going when the assistant is there too and I have no concerns over the standards at any time' and 'Lauren is an integral part of Little Giggles. The relationship my child and Lauren have is lovely. Lauren has a natural talent for being able to support, care and encourage my child to be her best self'.

The assistant showed confidence in telling us about the steps that she would take if she had any concerns about a child's welfare. She was committed and motivated to learn and since the last inspection had attended training including child protection and safeguarding, first aid and autism awareness course to further strength her knowledge.

Effective support and supervision by the childminder enabled the assistant to keep up to date with the needs of the children and of the service delivery.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We made an evaluation of very good for this key question, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

The children benefitted from the childminders professional and enthusiastic approach to their business and service they provided to the children and families.

The childminder demonstrated a good knowledge and understanding of meeting the needs of individual children. She is a member of the Scottish Childminding Association and is aware of the Care Inspectorate's THE HUB. This means she was well informed of best practice guidance and can gain up-to-date childcare information.

Effective quality assurance processes were in place. The childminder, and her assistant, understood the importance of seeking the views of children and families to inform the development of the service., however due to the recent pandemic the use of questionnaires had been postponed.

The childminder had registered with the local Authority to provide a blended places for children. We found documentation and records were well organised and relevant information was readily available regarding those places. Policies and procedures were reviewed annually, or when required to meet latest guidance.

We referred the childminder to the early years improvement programme on the Care Inspectorate hub for further guidance -<https://hub.careinspectorate.com/how-we-supportimprovement/care-inspectorate-programmes-and-publications/early-learning-and-childcareimprovement-programm> and we discussed using best practice documents to evaluate the service, such as 'A Quality Framework for Daycare of Children, Childminding and School-aged Childcare' to further develop this. This can be found at: <https://hub.careinspectorate.com/>

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

Recommendation 1

The childminding assistant should access child protection training. She should use the learning gained to develop her skills and keep up-to-date with current childcare practice.

National Care Standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16 - standard 6: support and development.

This recommendation was made on 20 April 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminders assistant had attended the relevant training.

Complaints

Please see Care Inspectorate website (www.careinspectorate.com) for details of complaints about the service which have been upheld.

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
12 Apr 2017	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
9 Apr 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
14 Nov 2012	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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