

Tricia Brownlee Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 10 May 2022

Service provided by:
Patricia Brownlee

Service provider number:
SP2020991345

Care service number:
CS2020380933

Introduction

Tricia Brownlee operates a childminding service from her home in Dunblane and was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 19 October 2020. Children play downstairs in the home and access upstairs for use of the toilet. Children have direct access to a fully enclosed garden, however at the time of inspection the garden was not being used as improvements to it were being undertaken. To support children's outdoor play the childminder ensures that children have daily access to local parks and places of interest.

The conditions of registration for the services are:

Number(s) and Age(s) of person(s) to whom service may be provided:

1. The childminder may care for 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 include the children of the childminder's family/household.

Any other conditions unique to the service:

2. Minded children can only be cared for by persons named on the certificate.

3. No overnight care will be provided

The aims and objectives of the service include:

- warm, friendly and engaging environments with a home from home feel where parents/carers are confident to leave their child
- a happy and engaging service where children are at the centre of their own learning experiences taking into account each child's interests.

A full list of the aims and objectives was available and was shared with parents. The childminder has recently started working in partnership with Stirling Council to provide funded places.

What we did during our inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 5 May 2022 between 09.30 and 12.45. Feedback was given on a video call on 10 May 2022 between 18.30 and 19.10. Two inspectors carried out the inspection.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about the service. This included self-evaluation, registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke with a child using the service
- reviewed feedback from parents
- spoke with the childminder about the service provided
- observed play and interactions between the childminder and minded children
- looked at the resources available and the use of space
- looked around the home to assess risk and cleanliness
- reviewed documents and recording.

Views of people using the service

We received email feedback from five parents. They told us that they were very happy with the service the childminder provided. Parents felt that the childminder was welcoming and caring and that they knew children well. They welcomed the use of technology which was used to share information, including photographs and videos of what children had been doing.

There was one child present during the inspection. They appeared relaxed and confident and had a close bond with the childminder. They interacted in a positive way and involved the childminder in their play. The child told us what they enjoyed doing with the childminder.

Self assessment

We received a well completed self assessment which provided a good overview of the service. It gave detailed information about what had been done to develop the service since registration.

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. Activities, play and learning were child-led which supported children to develop their natural curiosity, creativity, imagination and social skills. The childminder supported children's language and literacy development well and the children had daily opportunities for outdoor play in their local community.

What the service could do better

The childminder should extend ways to involve children and parents in deciding the next steps to support children's wellbeing and development. The childminder should complete the improvements to the garden to enhance children's choice and experiences of being outdoors and update risk assessments in response to any changes. They should extend ways to seek and record feedback from children and parents which would contribute to the improvement of the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We found major strengths in supporting positive outcomes for children with very few areas for improvement, therefore evaluated this theme as very good.

Children benefitted from the childminder's calm, nurturing and patient approach. The childminder listened to children and ensured they felt included and respected. It was clear positive, trusting relationships had been formed and that they enjoyed caring for children. This meant children felt safe and secure in the service.

The childminder had undertaken recent child protection training and we were satisfied that they had a good understanding of their responsibilities to safeguard children.

Throughout the inspection the childminder chatted with children as they played together, read stories and sang songs. This helped to develop children's imagination and skills in language, literacy and numeracy.

The childminder placed a strong emphasis on supporting children's emotional wellbeing. Parents commented; "My child very clearly adores his time at Tricia's. It is clear she makes his overall wellbeing a priority". The childminder could confidently describe how they supported individual children. The childminder knew children well and was able to confidently discuss their personalities and individual routines. Children's individual needs, rights and choices were recognised in personal plans and these were regularly updated. This knowledge enabled the childminder to be responsive to their changing needs.

The childminder valued partnership working and had strong and trusting relationships with parents which allowed information to be shared verbally. To further support children's progress and development, we asked the childminder to record some of the information she shared on a verbal basis. This could include identifying children's achievements, next steps and when reviews take place.

Planning books detailed children's involvement in the service. They chose activities which they wanted to do and planned and prepared snacks. By building trust with children and listening to their wishes the childminder made sure that they felt valued and respected.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and families. For example, we observed the childminder encouraging children to wash their hands reinforcing the need for good hand hygiene. The environment was clean and tidy and the childminder had a good understanding of infection prevention and control practices.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We found important strengths in aspects of the environment and these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this theme as good. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on the children's experiences.

The childminder's home was warm and welcoming. Indoor areas were well ventilated and very good standards of cleanliness were visible throughout the home. Children benefitted from free flow self-directed play and could choose what they wanted to play with and where they wanted to spend time in the home. There was a table used for games, crafts and mealtimes, as well as space for floor play and a large sofa area for relaxing.

The childminder had completed risk assessments for the home, which helped protect children and keep them safe. We asked the childminder to ensure a written risk assessment was in place for the garden to ensure all risks were considered and reduced where possible.

The childminder told us how children's ideas, opinions and interests were considered to allow responsive activities and experiences to be planned. For example, a child's interest in diggers was well supported as the childminder supplied sand, diggers and vehicles when they were asked for. To extend the child's learning and understanding through real life experience the childminder took the child to watch local roadworks. This approach ensured children felt included and valued.

Children were able to choose what they wanted to do from a range of good quality resources. The childminder encouraged them to select and put away toys and activities. This encouraged children to be independent and responsible.

Playing and learning outdoors was a priority for the service and children played outdoors every day in local parks, woods and areas within the local community. This promoted children's natural curiosity and creativity. It also helped to support children's wellbeing and contributed towards encouraging a healthy lifestyle. We saw photographs of children having fun and exploring the natural environment. Children understood about safety as they had been involved in contributing to risk assessments.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

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

The childminder had created an information pack for parents which included the service policies and procedures. Written contracts included the terms and conditions under which the service would be provided. We were satisfied that the childminder kept all of the required records to support children's wellbeing. These measures helped parents to know what to expect from the service and to make informed choices about their children's care.

The childminder's friendly and open approach supported trusting relationships to be developed with children and their families. Daily discussions and positive connections with parents, allowed for children to benefit from planned experiences and activities that matched their current interests. They had developed systems such as planning books and personal plans for each child which were used well to support positive experiences for children.

Self-evaluation had been used by the childminder to reflect on their service and identify areas for improvement. As a result, they had identified improvements which could be made to the garden to enhance children's choice and experiences. Once completed the childminder should involve children in developing risk assessments. They should monitor how children use the garden to ensure they benefit from the improvements made.

As the service is developed, the childminder should continue to use self-evaluation to maintain high standards of care and learning for children and families. We asked the childminder to consider introducing more structured ways for children and parents to give their feedback and views on the service, for example through questionnaires. The childminder was aware of the document 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare', and other best practice documents, to support them to gather children's and parents' views. This will help families to feel included in making decisions about the progress of the service.

The childminder was committed to their professional development. As a result, they had completed training in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) to ensure they were responsive to children's needs. We recognised the positive impact this training had on experiences for children. The childminder should capture how training and learning had been used to develop the service and provide positive outcomes for children.

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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