

Cheeky Cherubs Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 23 May 2022

Service provided by:
Karen Gordon

Service provider number:
SP2019990454

Care service number:
CS2019374005

Introduction

Mrs Gordon is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, 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 the children of the childminder's family.

The childminder's home is situated in a coastal town with access to amenities and the beach. There is a secure play area to the rear of the premises.

What we did during our inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 19 May 2022. One inspector carried out the inspection. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered through the inspection year. To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke with three parents
- two children
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Views of people using the service

Parents told us that they were happy with the service and the relationship the childminder had established with them to feel assured, and their child to thrive. Regular communication and updates about their child helped them to feel involved.

Children were keen to tell us about their visit to the woods and their search for the Gruffalo. A child told us how they liked playing in the water, filling the cup and pouring it onto the wheel made it spin which was fun.

Self assessment

Not requested.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a responsive and nurturing service; their interactions supported the child's wellbeing and development. Children had experiences that enabled them to have fun during play and also learn about the wider world in the local community.

The childminder had established positive relationships with parents, that enabled them to work together in a meaningful way and that supported the best interest of the child.

What the service could do better

A formal and comprehensive review of the personal plan, at least six monthly with parents would help to support a holistic approach to wellbeing.

The childminder extends open ended, natural and real-life resources so that children are given wider opportunities to explore and problem solve.

The childminder should involve children and parents/carers in the evaluation and improvement of the service, and use training opportunities and best practice documents to enhance outcomes for children.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	3 - Adequate

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We evaluated this quality theme as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Children had built positive relationships with the childminder, this had been helped by the friendly and attentive approach of the childminder. Children were clearly comfortable, happy and relaxed in their surroundings.

The childminder had got to know children's needs, preferences and personalities well which helped them to provide responsive care. The child's personal plan consisted of key information such as health, family, likes/dislikes and interests. The childminder made changes to the personal plan so that children's needs were kept up to date. However, having a formal and comprehensive review of the personal plan, at least six monthly with parents would support a holistic approach to wellbeing. Parents told us that they liked the 2-way communication book that summarised their child's activities. It helped them to be consistently involved in their child's care and development.

The young children were well supported to make choices in their play and to have fun. The childminder listened respectfully to them and provided encouragement. Children enjoyed dancing together, painting pictures and creating with building blocks and magnetic tiles. Children benefited from active, exploratory and imaginary play outside in the fresh air which was beneficial to their wellbeing. Children told us how they had been on a walk in the woods to find the Gruffalo in the morning, but had been unable to find him, but they had collected some pine cones to paint.

Children sat together in the dining room for their packed lunch. Food was placed on a plate for them which helped it to be a positive learning experience. The childminder supported the children well, social and independence skills were promoted.

The childminder had completed child protection training in the past to support their knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children. So that this remained up to date we suggested that the childminder arranged to attend local refresher training. We referred the childminder to the local authority child protection website, for relevant information and agency contact details, to include in their policy.

The childminder had documentation to support the safe administration of medication and parents had signed the administration record so that correct information was exchanged. However, it was not clear that parents had given written consent to administer medication to support best practice. We suggested the childminder refreshed their knowledge of the document: management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services -[hub.careinspectorate.com](https://www.careinspectorate.com/hub)

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We evaluated this quality theme as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Children benefited from being cared for in a clean and well maintained environment that was conducive to their safety and wellbeing. Suitable equipment such as personal protective equipment (PPE) should there be any contact with bodily fluids, were in place. The childminder kept the premises and activities under review to assess and mitigate risk.

The childminder had completed first aid training to ensure that they had appropriate knowledge to treat children should an accident occur. The childminder had a suitable format for recording accidents/incidents to ensure that correct information was held and exchanged with parents/carers.

The childminder was using the rear of the premises for the purposes of childminding that consisted of a playroom, dining room and downstairs bathroom. The playroom had storage units that enabled children to make their own choices and a play kitchen supported imaginary play. Space was being well utilised; the arrangement of furniture in the playroom enabled children to enjoy floor activities such as; play sets and construction. There was a large sofa and a story area with cushions, so that children could enjoy quieter activities or rest and recuperate. The large table in the kitchen was used for table top activities and crafts.

A secure outdoor play area was accessible from the kitchen/diner. It was equipped with a small climbing and a playhouse. A tuff tray was filled with some play kitchen items and some real baking trays, utensils. Children clearly enjoyed being outdoors; they enjoyed imaginary play in the play house which was a burger takeaway and playing in the water tray that had been filled with bubbles. We suggested an increase in open ended, natural and real-life resources, would provide children with wider opportunities to explore and problem solve. Ref: loose parts toolkit, our creative journey and realising the ambition: being me - hub.careinspectorate.com may be helpful.

Children visited the woods, beach and visited the library weekly where they selected books for the story corner. Such activities and experiences helped to support children's understanding of the wider world.

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 evaluated this theme as adequate, where strengths only just outweighed weaknesses.

Throughout the inspection the natural interactions that the childminder had with the children demonstrated that they had got to know them and their family circumstances well. Children were able to lead and make choices in their learning and initiate play from a variety of interesting activities. The childminder recognised the value of working in partnership with parents in a meaningful and supportive way, taking account of their views on a daily basis.

The childminder had completed core training such as child protection, food hygiene and first aid that supported children's wellbeing. We discussed how access to wider training opportunities would support a proactive approach towards their own professional development and learning and enhance outcomes for children.

We discussed the benefits of a concise improvement plan with the childminder, so that changes could be recorded as they occurred, to support a continuous approach to improvement. This could be as a result of seeking the views of parents and/or children, learning from training and reading best practice guidance. Early learning and childcare good practice guidance documents and the Care Inspectorate early years

improvement programme, would also support reflection of practice, with a view to enhancing outcomes for children - hub.careinspectorate.com (see recommendation 1).

Whilst the childminder had relevant policies that supported them in running the service, we suggested they were kept under review. We discussed this with the childminder so that they reflected best practice guidance and the Health and Social Care Standards My support, my life - hub.careinspectorate.com This would also help the childminder to be reflective of the service provided and support self-evaluation.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The childminder should involve children and parents/carers in the evaluation and improvement of the service, and use training opportunities and best practice documents to enhance outcomes for children.

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

'I am actively encouraged to be involved in improving the service I use, in a spirit of genuine partnership.' (HSCS 4.7); and

'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes.' (HSCS 4.19).

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

Recommendation 1

To support children's wellbeing and care needs, the provider should ensure communication with families is meaningful and settling in periods allow time and support for the family to adapt and children make secure attachments. This should include, but not limited to,

- a) Reviewing the admission and settling in period to allow more realistic timescales, taking into consideration, individual family needs and attendance patterns.
- b) Ensure all communication is accurate and reflective of children's needs and attendance.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standard 4.23: I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed.

This recommendation was made on 10 December 2021.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had reviewed the settling in policy and families considered communication and documentation had helped to build positive relationships from the start.

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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