

Hannant, Mary Child Minding

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

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2003904729

Care service number:
CS2003007964

Introduction

Mary Hannant is registered to provide care for six children at any one time under the age of 16 years of whom a maximum of 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 childminding service operates from a modern, detached bungalow situated within a quiet residential area in the village of Kirkhill. Children have access to all public areas of the house as well as access to the large garden area which includes a recently installed summer house for the children to use.

What we did during our inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 19 May 2022 between 2.30pm and 4.15pm. One inspector carried out the inspection. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year. To inform our evaluations we:

- spoke with the childminder
- spoke with children
- spoke families using the service
- observed practice
- reviewed documents

Feedback was given at the end of the inspection on 19 May 2022.

Views of people using the service

Following the inspection, we contacted four parents by email. Three parents responded, some of the comments received included:

"The playing facilities are second to none and the vast space and toys Mary has for every age is amazing. My son has everything he could ever dream of to play with at Mary's. An outside playroom has recently been installed which is amazing."

"Mary has always been very informative with everything and I have forms to fill in throughout the year to also discuss what my child's needs, wants or dislikes are."

"The kids are allowed into her home and at the same time have play areas of various environments, water play, sand play, obstacles, mud kitchen etc. sensory play are all important methods in the child's development."

"Mary has gone over an above for her kids that she looks after. She always bakes them a cake and they get birthday presents."

During our inspection three children were present. We found that they were happy, relaxed and confident in the care of the childminder. They were happy to engage with the inspector. Some of their comments included:

"It was outside day at school today, my legs are so tired."
 "I did lots of running."
 "Look at me when I was small."
 "I am going on my holidays."
 "My favourite thing is to play on the big exercise balls."
 "We are going to be baking tomorrow."
 "I really like Mary."

Self assessment

A self-assessment was not requested. We reviewed documents and policies as part of the inspection process.

What the service did well

The childminder provided very nurturing care from her home. She knew the children very well, many of whom had attended the service for a number of years. We saw that she had developed very close relationships with the children in her care.

She had developed her home and large country garden to provide children with extensive opportunities to play, explore and rest, providing opportunities for children to develop lifelong skills.

The childminder had established very good working relationships with the families which allowed for open communication and information sharing. This was confirmed by the comments made by all the parents and carers.

What the service could do better

The childminder was committed to her professional development and should continue to access appropriate training and keep up to date with best practice guidance.

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 the quality of care and support as very good.

The childminder had developed very strong bonds with the children in her care. She was responsive and nurturing towards each child. She knew the children very well, talking about their school day, families and upcoming events with them, for example transition to a new school and a friend's birthday party. As a result of this children felt loved, valued and secure.

Each child was valued as an individual and their needs were met effectively. The childminder had known the children in her care on the day of inspection for many years. Children were able to reflect on past experiences with the childminder, looking at photos of the things they had done and talking about them. She made good use of personal planning to support the children in her care, sharing information regularly with children and families. This meant that children's changing needs were responded to with compassion and sensitivity.

Children were very well supported to lead their own play and learning. We saw that children were confident in choosing what they wanted to do, independently leading their own play experiences. The childminder used skilled interactions to extend children's thinking and widen their play. As a result of their highly responsive approach, children were supported to learn a broad range of lifelong skills.

Snack and mealtimes were calm and relaxed. The childminder understood the importance of daily routines for developing close attachments with the children in her care. Children were empowered to choose healthy options and were involved in the planning and preparation of healthy meals to share together. The childminder offered flexible choices to ensure that children enjoyed a wide variety of foods throughout each day. She sat with the children during snack, listening to their news and extending conversations with sensitive questioning. This meant that children enjoyed a positive and social experience.

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 quality of the environment as very good.

The childminder's home was bright, comfortably furnished, clean and well maintained. Resources were available for a range of age groups, attractively displayed to engage children in their play and learning. Wall displays highlighted the children's recent artwork, for example, framed pictures made using a selection of materials collected on a recent trip to a local beach. Children were able to return to modelling and crafts created in previous visits and continue with their work. A large 3-D model was in progress outside that all children had contributed to. One child showed the inspector they had made a miniature vegetable garden

within the display. This meant that children were influencing the design and layout of the environment and were shaping their own experiences through play.

Children had access to a range of high-quality resources. The childminder had developed areas within her home to provide children with a broad range of experiences and opportunities. For example, the dedicated playroom provided a wide range of natural and open-ended resources that children could independently access. This meant that children were supported to develop their natural curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

Children were empowered to direct their play. They could independently choose whether to play inside or outside at any time. Children had access to a large summer house which provided an area to play and rest, older children were also able to have quiet time in a separate area within this when they needed to. The large, enclosed garden had been divided into attractive spaces for children to play and explore, offering challenge to all ages and stages of development. Different areas promoted large, physical play and supported children to take risks, learn about looking after their environment and engage in a range of sensory experiences. This meant that children had ample space to meet their needs and knew that they were valued.

The childminder made very good use of local beaches, woods, parks, and attractions. Children were supported to explore their wider community on a regular basis. For example, natural materials collected on a recent trip to the beach were displayed in artwork created by the children. As a result of this, children were supported to develop their self-confidence and sense of awe and wonder in the world around them.

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 the quality of management and leadership as very good.

The childminder was dedicated to providing the children in her care with the best possible experience. She was knowledgeable about child development and used this knowledge to respond to children's needs and interests. This resulted in children receiving high quality care that was right for them.

The childminder kept up to date with guidance and best practice. She accessed the Care Inspectorate hub and key documents to support her knowledge and understanding. She worked closely with other local childminders, sharing knowledge and information with them. The childminder told the inspector they supported each other with best practice and sought out training opportunities together. This meant she had a good support network, which ensured high quality experiences for children.

The childminder regularly reviewed her own training needs, completing relevant training such as First Aid and Child Protection. She kept her policies and procedures up to date in line with best practice and shared these with families. As a result the children experienced care in a service that was very well managed.

Children's and parents' views were actively sought to inform the development of the service. Children contributed suggestions and ideas for experiences and activities, and the childminder used skilled observations of their play to expand her service. Parents told us that they felt included in the service and that their opinions were valued. As a result, children and families were meaningfully involved in the service in a spirit of genuine partnership.

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

Date	Type	Gradings	
21 Jun 2018	Unannounced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	6 - Excellent
15 Aug 2014	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	6 - Excellent
30 Aug 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
10 Apr 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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