

LK Childminding Services

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 6 June 2022

Service provided by:
Linsey Knox

Service provider number:
SP2020991239

Care service number:
CS2020380085

Introduction

Linsey Knox operates her childminding service under the name of LK Childminding services. The childminder is currently registered to provide care for a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age.

The childminding service operates from a detached house in Milton of Collace. The service is a short drive from the village of Burrelton, with the town of Coupar Angus nearby.

What we did during our inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 26 May 2022 between 13:00 and 15:00. One early years inspectors carried out the inspection. Feedback was given to the childminder via telephone on 6 June 2022.

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

To inform our evaluations we:

- observed practice and children's experiences indoors
- spoke with one parent/carer
- spoke with the childminder
- reviewed relevant documentation

Views of people using the service

We observed the children to be relaxed and happy in the service.

As part of the inspection, we received views from one parent/ carer of children who attend the service. They were very happy with the service provided and commented; "Lynsey provides a safe, homely environment for my child, and they feel comfortable in her home. She was very informative before we started, she provides personal touches to her service."

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to submit a self-assessment prior to the inspection. As part of the inspection, we reviewed the services quality assurance processes and improvement plan which demonstrated their priorities for improvement.

What the service did well

The childminders warm, kind, and caring interactions meant that children were nurtured and supported well during their time at the service.

The childminder provided a home from home experience for children.

What the service could do better

The childminder should further develop the use of loose parts to support and extend children play experiences.

The childminder should develop self-evaluation processes to ensure continuous improvement of the service.

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 this quality theme as very good.

Children benefitted from a warm, kind and nurturing childminding experience supporting them to feel safe, secure and respected. The childminder was responsive to children's needs and preferences and supported them well during their time in the service. This ensured that children were happy and content.

We saw warm, caring interactions between the childminder and minded children. We watched as the childminder supported and encouraged the children when they woke from nap time. Children were offered cuddles and comfort when needed. This approach contributed to an ethos of respect and inclusion and helped nurture children.

Healthy lifestyles were encouraged within the service. The children had daily opportunities to access fresh air and active play, for example, playing in the garden and going out for walks. The childminder provided snacks including fresh fruit and vegetables for the children, ensuring they had a healthy diet. She also provided homemade lunches. This contributed to children experiencing healthy lifestyle choices.

The childminder was responsive to children's individual needs and supported changes to daily routines with effective communication with parents or carers. The childminder used children's personal plans to support individual routines, needs and preferences. This resulted in children feeling valued and nurtured within the service, contributing to the positive relationship we saw on inspection with the children. Children's personal plans were reviewed and updated every six months or sooner to ensure the childminder had the most up to date information to meet children's needs effectively.

Children participated in a variety of learning experiences that were supported well by the childminder. Children's next steps had been identified to ensure that they were supported to learn and develop at a pace that was right for them. Older children attending the service had opportunities to be involved in the planning of activities on offer. This contributed to children feeling valued and respected.

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 this quality theme as very good.

Children were cared for in a safe, nurturing, and homely environment contributing to them feeling happy and secure. The environment allowed children to move around freely, with space to play on the floor, chose toys or relax on the sofa. A kitchen diner offered children space to have meals and snacks and engage in play activities suitable for sitting at a table. The dedicated playroom provided a space for children to play and relax. A secure garden offered additional opportunities for active play and access to fresh air. This was well maintained with a variety of outdoor resources which the children could choose from.

Children had access to a range of age appropriate toys within the service such as blocks, small world play, games and books. Toys were stored within the playroom where children could access them independently. This contributed to children feeling valued and respected as they can make choices about what they want to play with. Although children had access to a wide range of toys, we suggested more open-ended loose part play to enhance creative thinking, problem solving skills and new learning. Loose parts are every day materials (bottle tops, lids, pipes, cones, corks, scarves, tins) that children can move, manipulate, control and experiment with during play. This would offer them endless opportunities to explore possibilities of materials and learn by trial and error. The childminder was keen to develop this within her service to further extend play experiences for children.

Accidents and incidents were recorded and shared with parents appropriately. The childminder managed her environment well to promote children's safety and well being. Very good infection control measures were in place to ensure children had access to an environment that was safe and clean. This contributed to children feeling safe and secure.

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

The childminder demonstrated a good understanding of her role as a registered childminder. She was conscientious and passionate in her role to deliver good quality care for her minded children. Since becoming registered, the childminder had worked hard to develop her knowledge and skills in early learning and childcare. She showed commitment to her professional development by undertaking a range of training, reading and research. This contributed to her confidence to meet children's needs.

Regular communication with parents was well established. The childminder used WhatsApp to keep in touch with families on a regular basis, providing information for parents on how their child's day had been, activities and interests, mealtimes and intimate care routines. This supported families to feel included in their child's care and feel valued as individuals.

Self-evaluation was being developed through conversations with parents and older children and the use of questionnaires. The childminder should continue to develop these methods to gain meaningful feedback on their service. We discussed using best practice guidance such as 'Realising the Ambition' and the 'Quality Framework' to support their evaluation of the service they were providing. This will ensure children and families are included and contribute to the ongoing development of the service. Strengthening self-evaluation will enable to childminder to reflect on and what is working well in the service and what could be improved.

Regular reviews of policies and procedures ensured record keeping was maintained to a good standard. These had been shared with parents. This contributed to families feeling valued as they had a clear expectation of the service.

Overall, the childminder provided very good outcomes for children. It was evident that she was supportive and adaptable to the needs of the children and families using her service. She should now address the areas for improvement identified during the inspection to continually improve and develop her 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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