

Little Chickens Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)
Inspection completed on: 23 May 2022

Service provided by:
Dawn Warttig

Service provider number:
SP2019990916

Care service number:
CS2019377804

Introduction

Dawn Warttig trades as Little Chicken's Childminding and provides a care service from her family home in a rural area of Stirling. The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than 3 are not yet of an age to attend primary school, and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The service is close to the local primary schools, parks and other amenities. Areas used for childminding are downstairs within the property. Children have access to the living room, designated outdoor sunroom, bathroom and supervised access to the kitchen. On occasion the children sleep in the childminder's own bedroom. An large enclosed garden area is available to the rear of the house.

What we did during our inspection

This was a short announced inspection which took place on 19 May 2022 between 10:00 and 12:30. One inspector carried out the inspection.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year. To inform our evaluation's we:

- observed the childminder's practice and the children's experiences during the inspection visit
- spoke with the childminder and children who were present during the inspection visit
- reviewed feedback from three parents
- looked around the areas used for childminding
- reviewed relevant documents and paperwork.

The childminder engaged well with the inspection process. This was her first inspection, she provided the evidence requested and answered the questions required to support the evaluation of her service. She was open to professional discussion about how to make improvements to her service.

We provided feedback to the childminder on 23 May 2022 once the inspection was concluded.

Views of people using the service

Two minded children were present during the inspection visit. Throughout the visit the children were very happy, relaxed and confidently interacted and chatted with us, the childminder and each other. The children were having fun and enjoying a wide variety of activities and experiences.

We received feedback from three parents through individual emails. Overall, the parents were very happy with the experiences offered to their children and the quality of care and support provided. They made positive comments about how their children were supported to settle into the service and the level of information shared about their child. They were complimentary about the snacks and meals offered and the childminder's flexible approach.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We discussed their own planned areas for improvement which demonstrated their priorities for development.

What the service did well

Children felt safe and well cared for as they experienced a compassionate, supportive and nurturing environment. Positive experiences within the care setting promoted children's learning and development.

What the service could do better

The childminder could enhance records kept of children's individual development to support continued evaluating of children's progress and planning next steps.

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 this quality theme as very good.

Children experienced nurturing care and respectful interactions. This promoted a feeling of belonging and being well cared for in the minding environment. Continuous praise and encouragement further promoted children's inclusion and emotional wellbeing

Children benefitted from responsive care and support. The childminder successfully used her strong knowledge of their personalities to provide experiences which were of interest to them. Children's individual development was closely observed by the childminder. Important information was gathered and used well to ensure the right level of care and support was provided to promote continued achievements and overall wellbeing. The childminder could now enhance individual records to further reflect identified support strategies. This will help when evaluating children's progress and planning next steps.

Effective information sharing with parents supported continuity of care between the home and childminding setting. This also gave parents opportunities to assess and evaluate the level of care and support provided.

Children made individual choices and took ownership of their time in the service. This encouraged independence as children confidently made decisions about what they wanted to play with and planned future experiences. Children were listened to with their views and preferences being valued and respected.

The childminder was very supportive of children's emotional needs. Secure attachments and trusting relationships were developing with the childminder and between children. Compassionate and comforting interactions when children hurt themselves or needed reassurance promoted a sense of security and being well cared for. Where children experienced changes within their lives, for example transitions to nursery, individual support was successfully put in place. This practice promoted children's resilience and emotional wellbeing. Cosy areas inside and outside gave children space to rest, relax or spend time on their own if they chose to. Free access to these areas enabled children to set the pace of their day and offered children private spaces to confidentially speak to the childminder. This further supported a respectful care setting.

Children were supported to develop an understanding of each other's needs and to resolve disputes and problems together. This further supported children's inclusion, emotional wellbeing and learning of important social skills and democracy.

Children experienced positive mealtimes. Their independence was encouraged as they were fully involved in the meal time process. This included planning and preparation of nutritious snacks and meals which promoted their learning of healthy eating. This also respected children's individual choices and preferences. The childminder sat with children during mealtimes and used this time to develop social interactions in a relaxed and unhurried manner. Easy access to individual water bottles encouraged children to remain hydrated and supported continued health.

Children were safe guarded as the childminder had a clear understanding of her role and responsibilities for protecting them. She demonstrated a sound knowledge of the procedures to be followed if she had any concerns regarding child protection. An appropriate statement was in place, this had been shared with parents and gave parents assurance that the childminder would protect their children from harm.

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's enjoyment of the outdoor space was enhanced due to the wide range of opportunities available in the garden and outdoor summerhouse. This included planting, growing and harvesting their own food. Easy access to play materials indoors and outside supported independence. The interesting range of resources promoted creativity, curiosity, discovery and sensory experiences. This contributed to inviting and interesting spaces for children and promoted enjoyment through play and learning.

The thoughtful range of loose parts play materials both indoors and outdoors was effective in supporting children's creativity and imagination. Children used outdoor loose parts imaginatively to extend their play and learning. Providing natural materials indoors and outdoors for play and investigation such as mud and potion areas further supported curiosity, imagination and problem solving.

The children were comfortable and relaxed in the setting. All areas used by children were homely, clean, tidy, warm and welcoming. The childminder confirmed how she supported children's learning of infection prevention and maintained levels of hygiene. This reduced children's risk of cross infection and kept them healthy.

Appropriate procedures for the management of pets meant children could enjoy caring for the childminder's pet fish and chickens in a safe manner. Caring for the animals supported children's feelings of calmness and increased their self esteem and sense of responsibility.

Children's health was promoted because the safety of the home had been assessed through a range of risk assessments. Risks were balanced with benefits to children as there were opportunities for them to enjoy fire play and other risk play experiences. These enabled children to assess and manage risk, supporting important life skills. Risk assessments had been regularly reviewed and updated and were effective in minimising children's risk of harm.

The childminder made very good use of the local and wider community to provide children with additional play opportunities. For example, supporting and attending local groups, use of local amenities and visits to local natural spaces. These opportunities allowed children to build connections with their local and wider community and develop a sense of belonging.

This also supported children to connect and socialise with others and develop friendships.

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 this quality theme as very good.

Children experienced positive outcomes as the childminder kept up to date with current guidance and best practice. She confidently demonstrated how use of national guidance documents had supported her to improve outcomes for children. These included 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged childcare', SHANARRI wellbeing indicators and the 'Health and Social Care Standards'. Accessing relevant websites, professional documents and established links with other professionals had supported the childminder to assess her knowledge and identify future professional development.

The childminder had built good relationships with parents and their complimentary comments reflected their high level of satisfaction. Opportunities for families to provide views on the service were gathered through the use of parent questionnaires at regular intervals for example, soon after starting. This enabled the childminder to tailor the service to meet their needs. The childminder should now create further opportunities to gather parents and children's views. This will further support them to feel included and respected.

Children enjoyed positive outcomes as the childminder was clear about her aims and objectives for the service. She had begun to develop systems for ongoing self evaluation using the professional document 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged childcare'. To strengthen this the childminder should now formalise her approach to quality assurance. For example the written development plan should highlight actions required, timescales and progress made. This will help the childminder to continually reflect and build realistic and effective action plans to support improvement.

The childminder's enthusiasm and commitment to improving outcomes for children and her very good understanding of child development supported her to be effective and competent. She was dedicated to continued learning and development. The childminder should now consider developing a reflective log of training to demonstrate the positive impact of any training on children's experiences. Keeping abreast of developments ensured that practice was appropriate towards keeping children safe, healthy and achieving.

The childminder was fully aware of notifications periods, reviewed personal care plans regularly and held appropriate policies. The certificate of registration was displayed, and children's attendance recorded. Appropriate steps were taken ensuring children's confidentiality was maintained as the childminder was registered with the Information Commissioners Office. A confidentiality and GDPR policy was in place and records stored securely. This provided parents with confidence of well organised service.

To ensure children's continued wellbeing medication forms held should be reviewed and updated. This should include dates of receipt, expiry and return of medication held especially for long term medication. Reference should be made the document 'Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services' available on the hub section of our website.

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

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

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