

Sunnyside Childminding Service

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 9 June 2022

Service provided by:
Gemma Parker

Service provider number:
SP2019990754

Care service number:
CS2019376850

Introduction

Gemma Parker provides a childminding service. The service is registered to provide a service to a maximum of six children up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than three are not yet of an age to attend primary school, and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate. No overnight care will be provided. When the hot tub is in the garden, the childminder must supervise the children playing in the garden.

The service is based in a residential area of Inverurie and is close to parks and the local school and nursery. The children have access to the living room and dining area, downstairs bathroom, and secure back garden.

What we did during our inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 9 May 2022 between 09:15 and 12:15. Feedback was shared with the childminder on 9 May 2022. One early years 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 we:

- spoke to a child who was attending the service and contacted two families
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Views of people using the service

We observed a child during our visit who was happy and relaxed in the childminder's care and shared with us that they loved art and craft activities.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to submit a self-assessment prior to the inspection. We had a discussion regarding quality assurance and supporting ongoing improvement within the service.

What the service did well

The childminder had developed a good understanding of children's current interests and had used this knowledge to support and enable the children to develop their interests. The children participated in a wide range of play experiences in their local community to develop their interests and take part in active play experiences.

What the service could do better

The childminder could develop more robust risk assessments which include all areas of her home environment and places that she visits regularly with the children within the local community.

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

Warm and caring interactions were observed between the childminder and the child who was present. The childminder knew the children well and planned activities and play experiences around their current interests. A wide variety of play resources were available for children to access throughout the day. One child said, 'I love art and craft'. They chose from a large variety of craft resources and created an owl and designed a picture from handprints using a variety of colours of paints. These play experiences enabled children to develop their imaginations, creativity, and independence.

Children had snack and lunch at the dining table. They washed hands prior to eating, the table was cleaned and wiped down and then they chose from a variety of healthy snacks and lunch items provided in their lunch box. The childminder interacted with the child who was present throughout the mealtime experience and was responsive to the child's needs. The child had access to drinking water throughout the session. The childminder had a sound knowledge and understanding of allergies and dietary requirements. The lunchtime experience developed choice making skills, independence, and life skills.

Photographs highlighted a wide range of play experiences that had taken place which included planting and growing, creative play, outings, active play, sensory experiences, and trips to the local soft play centre. We discussed with the childminder that children could display these photographs in a floor book and write or draw about their play experiences beside the photographs. This would then include the child's voice and enable the children to showcase their learning and play experiences. The childminder could record individual and specific observations of children's learning within the book.

Personal plans were in place for each child and included all the required information for the childminder to fully meet the needs of each child. We discussed that all plans must be reviewed at least six monthly and that parents should sign and date to confirm that the review has been completed. We also discussed that it would be empowering for the children to complete their all about me sections independently to provide up to date information relating to their likes, dislikes, and current interests. This would ensure that children were actively included in completing and reviewing their personal plans (**see area for improvement 1**).

The childminder had a good knowledge and understanding of child protection and how to keep children safe. Templates were in place for recording any concerns about a child and we had an in-depth discussion about any concerns relating to children. The childminder felt confident that she could speak to families regarding any possible concerns to ensure that children were kept safe from harm or abuse.

The childminder communicated with parents daily using Facebook, text messages and verbal handovers. Photographs were sent to parents to allow them to observe the fun play experiences that their children had taken part in. Parents shared that they were happy with all communications and felt that they received ample information about their children's sessions.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The provider should ensure that all personal plans are reviewed at least six monthly or more frequently if required with families. This will ensure that all information recorded is current and up to date to ensure each child's needs can be fully met.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15).

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

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

A homely and nurturing environment was provided for the children to take part in a wide range of play and learning experiences. Resources were easily accessible within the childminder's living room and dining area and were age and stage appropriate for children who attended the service. A sensory lighting wall provided a calming and nurturing atmosphere for children to take part in relaxing and quiet activities where they could relax on the sofa when they chose to. A bookcase was positioned close to the sensory area in the quieter area of the room and included a range of books for a variety of ages. Children had the opportunity to use the dining table and a tuff tray which could be on or off a stand, to take part in a range of activities. There was ample floor space for children to take part in construction activities and be creative. This was an enabling environment which provided opportunities for children to be creative, develop imaginations, problem solving skills and develop their independence.

Children could access a secure outdoor play area to take part in a range of active play experiences including den building. Children regularly visited the local park, had picnics, and explored the local woodland during which they risk assessed their play while climbing and creating dens. These opportunities supported active and healthy lifestyles and encouraged children to explore and develop their imaginations.

Children went on regular outings within their local community. This included trips to the heritage centre, bowling, museums, science centre, a charity based sensory centre and a role play centre that had areas set up to develop children's imaginations and play. These outings allowed children to become familiar with their local community while developing their interests and play opportunities.

Risk assessment checklists were in place for all areas of the childminder's home. We discussed that these could be more robust and could be further developed to minimise any potential risks. These should also be developed for regular outings into the local community. The risk assessments should identify all potential risks, the level of risk, and show how risks were currently being minimised to keep children safe (**see area for improvement 1**).

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The provider should ensure that robust risk assessments are in place for all areas of her home that the children access. Risk assessments should also cover outings and places where the children visit regularly within their community.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'My environment is secure and safe' (HSCS 5.17).

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We evaluated this key question as adequate, where strengths only just outweighed weaknesses.

The childminder had taken part in several training courses which included mandatory training to support her professional development and develop outcomes for children. It would be beneficial for the childminder to develop her knowledge of current best practice documents and guidance to further support her practice. We discussed that the childminder should record any impact on her practice from any training or reading she has completed. This could support the childminder to further develop quality play experiences for children as well as supporting ongoing improvement within the service (**see area for improvement 1**).

The childminder had previously shared questionnaires with families to gain feedback on her service to promote quality assurance. We discussed approaches to quality assurance and evaluating the service. Families shared that the childminder was keen to share ideas with them and ask for their input. It would be beneficial for consultations with children and families to be re-introduced to gain their views and suggestions which could lead to the development of an improvement plan. This would support ongoing improvement within the service and highlight the child's voice during quality assurance of the service (**see area for improvement 2**).

Policies and procedures were in place within the service and were reviewed and updated annually. We discussed that review dates should be clearly shown on all policies. It would be beneficial for the child protection policy to include the phone numbers for relevant agencies and to include the link to the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021. Maintenance checks had been completed and regular checks of smoke alarms had been carried out in line with policies and procedures to keep children safe.

We discussed with the childminder the importance of submitting all relevant notifications to the Care Inspectorate in line with conditions of registration of the service. This included the submission of the Annual Return document which provides us with current information relating to the service (**see area for improvement 3**).

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 3

1. The childminder should develop her knowledge of current best practice documents and guidance and record the impact on her practice of any training or reading that she has completed.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes' (HSCS 3.14).

2. The childminder should further develop her approach to quality assurance and begin to implement and improvement plan for the year ahead. Children and families should be involved in the quality assurance process and the ongoing improvements within the service.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

3. The provider should ensure that her service is well managed, by submitting all relevant notifications to the Care Inspectorate. This includes the yearly submission of the annual return form.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which states that: 'I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed' (HSCS 4.23).

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

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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