

Busy Lizzies Buzzy Bees Child Minding

Airdrie

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
14 July 2022

Service provided by:
Elizabeth Cummings

Service provider number:
SP2014986295

Service no:
CS2014330870

About the service

Elizabeth Cummings provides a childminding service from her property in a quiet residential area of Calderbank in Airdrie, North Lanarkshire. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time 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.

The service is close to local primary schools, shops, parks and other amenities. Childminding takes place on the ground floor with children having access to the lounge and kitchen/utility area to access an enclosed rear garden. The toilet facilities are situated upstairs.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 13 July 2022 between 10:30 and 12:45hrs. 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 evaluations we:

- observed children's play experiences.
- observed interactions between the children and the childminder.
- spoke with the childminder.
- looked around the childminder's home and garden.
- reviewed feedback from two parents/carers.
- reviewed service documents and records.

Key messages

- Children were cared for in a safe, warm, nurturing environment.
- Children's health and wellbeing needs were being met very effectively.
- Children benefit from engaging in a wide range of play experiences which are child led and responsive to their interests.
- Consultation with parents/carers was very good and they felt involved and included in their child's care.
- The childminder was professional, well organised and continued to keep her professional knowledge refreshed.

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care, play and learning?

5 - Very Good

1.1 Nurturing Care and Support

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

The childminder provided a caring and nurturing environment for the children in their care. We saw loving relationships between the childminder and the minded child. The childminder had a very good understanding of the importance of developing secure attachments and their practice was consistent throughout our visit. Children were provided and often sought cuddles and the childminder responded naturally to them. We could see how relaxed and confident they were. The childminder used positive language and meaningful praise when acknowledging children's achievements which helped build their confidence and self-esteem.

Children were very happy and content. They were relaxed in the childminder's care and were provided with comfort and reassurance. Positive relationships had developed between the children and they played happily together throughout our visit.

The childminder was very attentive to the children's needs and interactions were warm, nurturing and respectful. The childminder knew minded children very well and they shared with us how their care and development needs were being supported. The childminder had very good knowledge of each family and it was clear they valued parents/carers wishes regarding their child's care. A parent/carer commented 'Elizabeth knows our child very well. She recognises when he is feeling anxious or overexcited and provides the correct support he needs in that moment to help him to regulate himself.'

Children were listened to and had opportunities to make some decisions about their day and the childminder was responsive to their needs and requests.

Children's health and wellbeing was well supported by the use of personal plans, which contained important information about their needs and development. We provided the childminder with some information which could further improve children's plans and signposted them to 'Guide for Providers on Personal Planning. Early Learning and Childcare' available on the Care Inspectorate Hub.

The children's lunch time experience was unhurried, pleasant and relaxed. The childminder provided healthy, hot, home cooked meals which reflected children's preferences and parents/carers suggestions. Children were involved in preparing for lunch and childminder used this opportunity to develop their language and social skills and supported them to consider their safety. The childminder interacted positively with them, supporting when required. The childminder was registered as a food business and followed very good hygiene practices. This helped keep children safe and healthy. The childminder should continue to promote children's independence through activities and routines.

1.3: Play and learning

Children played happily in the lounge during our visit. They had fun playing together, and we heard lots of chattering and laughter. Children confidently led their own play and the childminder used skilful interactions to extend their learning. Children enjoyed playing with arts and crafts materials and small world toys during

our visit. A parent/carer commented 'Our child loves Elizabeth's house and garden to play in. She also makes great use of local areas like the park, pitch and woods. She has a great range of activities available for the kids but is also great at allowing them to lead their own play'

The childminder understood the importance of children having opportunities to play outdoors and promoted this very well in their service. In addition to playing in the garden, children had opportunities to visit interesting and fun places in the local and wider community. This helps enrich children's learning, helps them form strong links with their communities and develop wide-ranging relationships.

We found children particularly enjoyed visiting local natural spaces where they took poles and tarpaulin to create dens. As a result, children's health and wellbeing was well supported by participating in active, physical play outdoors where they benefited from engaging in challenging, risky play.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

The childminder had created a warm, welcoming environment, where children, families and visitors were valued and respected. Areas used by children were comfortably furnished, clean and well maintained. Soft furnishings helped create an inviting and homely environment for the children.

Children mostly used the lounge area for play activities which also provided a warm, cosy space for them when they were tired or wished to relax. The childminder had considered the layout of the room to ensure children had sufficient space to engage in their play activities and move around independently.

Children benefited from the wide range of toys and equipment which they were able to access independently both indoors and out. The childminder was aware of the benefits of children having access to loose parts materials. We encouraged them to continue to build on the range of natural, sensory and open-ended resources to stimulate children's curiosity, exploration and imagination.

Children benefited from playing outdoors in the childminder's garden which was easily accessible from the kitchen. This provided a secure, interesting play space for children to have fun playing in the fresh air. The garden had different surfaces for children to practise their skills with a wide range of outdoor play resources to support their play experiences.

The childminder told us about how they carried out visual checks of her home prior to children arriving and throughout the course of the day to ensure all areas were safe. This enabled them to respond naturally to any potential hazards within the home. We could see some of the measures the childminder had in place to minimise risks to children, for example safety stair gates to prevent children from accessing the stairs. The childminder told us about how they had considered individual children's needs and the actions they had taken to minimise risk.

Children's safety and wellbeing was promoted through effective infection control practices. Children were encouraged and supported to engage in hand hygiene practices at key times, for example before lunch and after visiting the toilet. Appropriate nappy changing procedures were in place and PPE was worn. The childminder confidently discussed some of the changes they had implemented as a result of Covid-19. Clear

policies and procedures supported the childminder to minimise the risk of spread of infection in their service.

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

The childminder demonstrated a positive commitment to improving their service. They told us that parents/carers and children's views were extremely important to them.

Daily chats and use of social media apps enabled the childminder to respond naturally to any suggestions made by children and parents/carers.

Children and their parents/carers were invited to share their views and suggestions for improvement through more formal questionnaires. For example, in preparation for the children returning to the service after the lockdown restrictions had eased, the childminder provided them with a questionnaire to complete at home. The childminder sensitively enquired about how they had felt during the situation, how they felt about returning and what could they do to help with this. The childminder used this opportunity to find out how they would like to spend their time, ideas for snacks and how they could support the children to feel safe on their return. This demonstrated that children's views were valued and respected.

Parents/carers confirmed in their feedback to us and in questionnaires that they were extremely happy with all aspects of the service. One parent/carer told us the key strengths of the service were 'Meeting the needs of each individual child and developing their confidence and self-esteem. Also using the local area to provide great experiences for the kids'

To ensure all children had a voice and were able to share their ideas in a fun way, the childminder used floor books to capture their suggestions. For example, we found children who attend during the summer had shared their ideas for activities and snacks for the summer and we could see how the childminder had responded. As a result, all children were made to feel included in making decisions about how they spent their time at the service.

The childminder shared with us some examples of how the service had been developed to improve outcomes for children. For example, purchasing specific toys and resources to support children's interests.

We encouraged the childminder to continue to develop ways to involve children and their families in improving the service and further strengthen self-evaluation. We highlighted a range of best practice guidance which could help with this. For example: 'Realising the Ambition,' 'A Quality Framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged childcare' and 'Self-evaluation for improvement - your guide'. This will support the childminder to reflect on what is working well in the service and what could be improved. This will also ensure children and families continue to have meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development of the service.

How good is our staff team?**5 - Very Good**

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

The childminder was extremely passionate about their childminding role. They were committed to ensuring the best outcomes for children and their families. They were well experienced, professional and very well organised for the inspection.

Children benefited from a kind, caring and consistent approach which helped them feel safe and secure. The childminder had a very good understanding of children's individual personalities and they were well supported to develop confidence and self-esteem. Children were well supported in their play and development of social skills.

The childminder knew each family well and described positive relationships. A range of communication methods were used by the childminder to ensure parents/carers were involved in their child's care. This ensured good links between home and your childminding setting which supports continuity of care. A parent/carer commented 'each day I receive a progress report by way of photographs and a completed diary as to what they have done during the day, what he has eaten and any other relevant information'

The childminder had appropriate insurance for the safety and wellbeing of service users. Record keeping was well maintained including, attendance and accident/incident records. This supported the childminder to deliver a quality, professional childminding service.

Appropriate aims and objectives had been developed for the service which had been shared with parents/carers as part of their welcome pack, along with the service's policies and procedures.

Being a member of the Scottish Childminding Association, receiving updates from the Care Inspectorate and using ways to engage with other childminders helped the childminder to keep up to date with new developments and explore topical issues.

The childminder had kept up to date with the ongoing changes to national early learning and childcare Covid-19 guidance.

Continued professional development opportunities supported the childminder to keep their professional knowledge and skills refreshed. The childminder had sourced a wide range best practice guidance and had accessed a range of training opportunities. This included training relating to Covid-19, Paediatric First Aid and Child Protection. A wide variety of training relating to child development and supporting children's emotional wellbeing helped them support children's needs effectively. We suggested that the childminder consider ways to demonstrate the impact of any training or self-study.

The childminder had engaged in a range of safeguarding reading and training and was clear about their role in protecting children. They knew who to contact for support and advice. Written procedures were shared with parents/carers. This supported the childminder to keep children safe and protected in her care.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good

How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good

How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	5 - Very Good

How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	5 - Very Good

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