

Lee, Caroline Child Minding

64 Kings Park Drive
Ayr
KA8 9TF

Telephone: 07749 374 180

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
26 August 2022

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2005945469

Service no:
CS2005089416

About the service

Caroline Lee provides her childminding service from her home in a residential area of Ayr, South Ayrshire. The service is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children at any time under the age of 16, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The childminder's home is a first floor flat, in a residential area of Ayr in South Ayrshire, close to local primary schools, parks and the beach. Children are cared for within the living room and have supervised access to the kitchen and hall area for play. There is no designated garden however the childminder makes good use of local amenities for outdoor play and fresh air.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Monday 22 and Wednesday 24 August 2022. We fed back to the childminder on Friday 26 August. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we: spoke with two children using the service and corresponded via e-mail with one parent, observed two children in the childminder's care and reviewed documents and the setting.

Key messages

Children feel loved and secure as a result of their strong attachment with the childminder and the familiarity of daily and weekly routines.

The childminder effectively promotes healthy eating and good eating habits.

The childminder has a very good knowledge of child development.

Children benefit from a wide range of carefully planned and responsive play experiences.

She knows individual children's current stages and needs and effectively plans how she will support their learning, health, safety and wellbeing.

The childminder should further develop self-evaluation methods to support the development and improvement of her service.

The childminder should continue to access learning and development opportunities.

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?	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	4 - 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

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.

1.1 Nurturing care and support

Children experienced warm, responsive and nurturing care from the childminder. Their independence, privacy and dignity were promoted through effective, consistent routines. This helped to promote strong attachments with the childminder and helped children feel safe, secure and loved.

The childminder was highly responsive to children's needs and met these effectively. She knew children very well, was highly attuned to their non verbal communication. As a result, the children's voices were heard, for example when they had lost interest in toys or needed a cuddle.

Children's health and well-being was effectively promoted through very good approaches to healthy eating. During our inspection children enjoyed a sociable and relaxed snack experience. The childminder carefully planned snacks and meals to provide children with nutritious, home cooked meals and snacks, and to promote good eating habits. As a result, children were developing an appreciation for a range of healthy foods, were happy to sit at the table and were learning to use cutlery.

Children's well-being and development was supported through effective personal plans, which reflected the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) wellbeing indicators. The childminder involved children's parents well in developing these, which helped to promote consistency and continuity of care for children.

The childminder supported children well to achieve their potential. She was aware of the potential barriers to this and work hard to support children to overcome these.

1.3 Play and learning.

The childminder used her very good understanding of child development and play theories to provide an effective range of planned and highly responsive play experiences. As a result, children were learning and developing through fun and stage appropriate experiences. We saw that the childminder was highly responsive to children's interests and developmental stages. Children were encouraged to lead their own play and learn at their own pace. During our inspection, the childminder intervened effectively to extend children's play and learning, for example by showing them how to roll out their bread dough and by quickly providing a new experience when they lost interest. Children had lots of fun playing with the bread dough, which the childminder planned to bake for them, posting games, playing with boxes and construction toys. Information about children's play and learning was effectively shared with parents. Parents told us that they were happy with their children's range of experiences.

Children's daily routines were well planned. There was a good balance between time to play in the house and being out in the local community. The childminder told us about how much the children enjoyed going out for walks in the local community and playing with in the parks or at the beach. Children were benefitting from active outdoor play and fresh air.

We suggested that the childminder could further develop her planning processes, for example through the

use of floor books. This would build on the very good approaches to planning that we observed and discussed.

How good is our setting?

4 - Good

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

2.2: Children experience high quality facilities.

Children were cared for in a clean, well maintained and homely environment. The environment reflected children's stages of development and learning. For example, during our inspection there was a child sized table and chairs which was used for playdough and snack and plenty of space for children to play on the floor in the living room and hall area. Furnishings and resources were of a good quality and there was plenty of ventilation and natural light. Whilst there was no designated garden space, the childminder made good use made of the local community to provide fresh air and outdoor play and learning experiences. These approaches supported children's development, health and well-being.

A good range of appropriate resources was available. The childminder supported children to choose from a selection in the living room cupboard. This helped children to make choices and lead their play in the moment. We discussed the potential to develop the range of loose parts. This will help promote children's curiosity, imagination and problem solving.

The childminder told us about how they carried out visual checks of their home prior to children arriving and throughout the course of the day to ensure all areas were safe. They reviewed their risk assessments regularly to ensure arrangements took account of individual children's needs and developmental stages. The childminder's risk assessment provided details of the measures taken to minimise risks to children both indoors and in the wider community.

Children's safety and wellbeing was promoted through satisfactory infection control practices. Children were encouraged and supported to engage in hand hygiene at key times, for example before eating. The childminder described appropriate infection prevention measures during personal care routines.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

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

3.1: Quality assurance and improvement are well led.

The childminder had a clear vision for the service she wanted to provide and shared this effectively with children and their parents. Current arrangements for evaluating the service were mainly informal. Regular contact with and informal communication meant families could influence the care provided. Parents told us they were very happy with the communication methods used by the childminder. They told us that the childminder was very approachable and welcomed their suggestions. We saw that children were listened to and their ideas, interests and views were respected and influenced the childminder's plan for their experiences and service operation. This enabled them to influence how they spent their time at the service and showed how the childminder valued children's views and supported them to feel respected, valued and included.

The childminder took account of best practice guidance and reflected on her professional learning and development when evaluating her service, but did not record this. We highlighted the potential to develop approaches to self-evaluation and quality assurance. We suggested that the childminder does this in line with 'A Quality Framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged childcare' the Care Inspectorate May 2022, and 'Self-evaluation for improvement - your guide' the Care Inspectorate, ?? 2022. This will support the childminder to reflect on what is working well in the service and what could be improved. It will also ensure children and families have consistently 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.

4.1: Staff skills, knowledge and values.

The childminder was caring, kind, compassionate and respectful. She responded to the needs of the children with care and affection. When discussing children and their families, they were respectful and promoted confidentiality.

The childminder held a qualification relevant to her role. She had a very good understanding of child development and play theories. This informed her practice and resulted in positive outcomes for children. We saw that children were being supported to achieve their potential through well planned, fun, play and learning experiences.

The childminder had kept their skills and knowledge up to date through attending training and reading guidance. Recently, there had been a focus on infection prevention and control in terms of professional development. The childminder told us she was keen to expand learning and development opportunities going forward. We made some suggestions relating to this which they were responsive to. This will help ensure children and families continue to receive a high-quality service.

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?	4 - Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	4 - Good

How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	4 - Good

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

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iarrtas.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.