

Danderhall Childminding Child Minding

Dalkeith

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
9 August 2022

Service provided by:
Alana Paterson

Service provider number:
SP2018990234

Service no:
CS2018371000

About the service

Alana Paterson, trading as Danderhall Childminding, provides a childminding service. The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one 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 childminders family. Minded children must be supervised when using the outdoor areas of the premises.

A number of timed conditions are stated on the certificate. We have asked the service to submit a variation to remove these conditions that are now out of date. She has agreed to do this.

The service is situated in a residential area of a town, and it is within walking distance of a school and play parks. The children are cared for in the lounge/diner and have supervised access to the kitchen and upstairs bathroom. There is a garden area at the front of the property, children must be supervised at all times when using this space.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 09 August 2022 between the times of 11:00am and 13:00pm. 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:

- observed the interaction between the minded child and the childminder
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents

Key messages

- The childminder was warm and caring to the children
- The childminder provided a homely environment that made children feel relaxed and safe.
- The childminder was responsive to meeting children's needs
- Quality assurance processes should continue to be developed and ensure positive outcomes for children and families.
- The childminder should continue to develop her skills and expertise by engaging in training to support her own learning and development.

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?	4 - Good
How good is our setting?	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
How good is our staff team?	4 - Good

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

How good is our care, play and learning?

4 - Good

We found important strengths with some areas for improvement in aspects of the care provided.

1.1 Nurturing care and support

We evaluated this quality indicator as good. The very young child was happy and comfortable in the care of the childminder. We saw that the child was cuddled and comforted when they sought reassurance which helped them to feel safe and cared for.

The childminder took an interest in the care needs and daily routines of the children. The childminder had gathered detailed information about the child that was recorded in the personal care plan. This information allowed the childminder to provide individual care for each child. Parents had been involved in this process to maintain consistency. We have asked the childminder to further develop children's individual plans to include strategies if they require additional support. This will support children to reach their full potential.

Children experienced positive mealtimes. The child sat in a high chair for their lunch, it was calm and unhurried. The child was supported to eat and we saw the childminder offering small amounts of food, so the child was not overwhelmed. The childminder sat at the table and chatted to the child whilst supporting them, this helped to support their social and independence skills.

Children were kept safe because the childminder understood the importance of safeguarding. They were able to discuss how to record any concerns and take this forward to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children.

The minded child slept in a buggy. This does not follow best practice guidelines and we have asked the childminder to review sleeping arrangements for children. This should include responding to children's individual needs but also promoting safe sleep habits.

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and Learning

We evaluated this quality indicator as good. The minded child was crawling and beginning to pull themselves up and balance on the furniture. They were able to move around safely and independently and wanted to explore and try things out. The childminder helped the child to communicate and find words by talking about what was happening and going on around them. This helped to support their language skills.

The childminder had got to know the children well and they were supported to play, learn and have fun. We saw photographs of activities that the children had enjoyed and these were displayed in their individual folders and floor book. The childminder had implemented a method for recording children's development and learning. We have suggested that they continue to review this so it remains useful and allows children to reach their full potential.

To support children's learning and development the childminder provided children with a range of resources. The minded child was playing with construction toys, wooden bricks and musical instruments. This supported children to make their own choices and supported their development. The childminder should

continue to review the resources on offer to ensure there is a wide range of play resources available for all children attending the setting.

Children were also able to develop their skills and confidence and learn about the wider world on walks and visits to the play parks within the local community.

How good is our setting?

4 - Good

We found important strengths with some areas for improvement in aspects of the care provided.

Quality indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities

We evaluated this quality indicator as good. Children were cared for in a safe and homely environment contributing to children feeling happy and secure. The living room was the main play area. There was enough space and resources to keep children occupied. The childminder supported the young child to choose toys that were of interest to them and sat on the floor to engage with them. The sofa enabled the young child to improve their balance and mobility, whilst providing a comfortable space for older children to rest. A dining table offered children space to have meals and snacks and engage in play activities suitable for sitting at a table.

The outdoor space at the front of the house had been developed to provide opportunities for children to play in the fresh air. Loose part materials allowed the children to develop their imagination and curiosity. Accessing the outdoor area contributed to children's health and wellbeing.

The childminder had recently bought a kitten. Parents had been informed and a pet policy had been issued that detailed appropriate measures to ensure children's health and safety.

Children were being kept safe as the childminder had suitable equipment in place, such as a high chair for the younger children. The childminder had also implemented infection control practices that followed best practice guidance to support children's safety. The young child was helped to wash their hands before eating their lunch. Infection control procedures were appropriate for the setting.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

We found important strengths with some areas for improvement in aspects of the care provided.

Quality Indicator 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

We evaluated this quality indicator as good. The childminder had worked hard since the last inspection to formalise the quality assurance systems in place for the service. Appropriate information is now gathered for each child and is used to inform the personal plan. Additional paperwork including planning for children's activities and regular reviewing of policies and procedures meant the childminder had met the area for improvement made during the last inspection.

We encouraged the childminder to continue on the improvement journey and shared some examples of how this could be achieved. We highlighted a range of best practice guidance which could help with this, including the document 'A Quality Framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged childcare'. This will support the childminder to reflect on what is working well in the service and what could be improved.

We could see that children were listened to and their ideas and interests were used to plan activities and outings. Children were encouraged to contribute their ideas and suggestions through the planning floor book. This enabled them to influence how they spent their time at the service and demonstrated that the childminder valued their views. This supported children to feel included and have meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development of the service.

How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

We found important strengths with some areas for improvement in aspects of the care provided.

Quality Indicator 4.1 : Staff skills, knowledge and values

We evaluated this quality indicator as good. The childminder had a good understanding of children's individual needs and personalities. Children benefited from a kind, caring and consistent approach which helped them feel safe and secure. 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.

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

The childminder had attended a variety of training over the year and had more recently had undertaken outdoor play training. They were enthusiastic to use the training to provide more outdoor sessions with the children. We spoke to the childminder about continuing to access training and good practice guidance. This would support their professional development and suggested that the childminder consider ways to demonstrate the impact of any training or professional reading on the quality of service they provide.

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

To improve outcomes for children, the childminder should develop a quality assurance system to address the areas for improvement identified in this inspection report and to evaluate and improve her service.

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

This area for improvement was made on 20 August 2021.

Action taken since then

The childminder had worked hard to develop a quality assurance system that ensured personal plans for each child were relevant and up to date. They had reviewed policies and procedures and made them relevant to their service.

The childminder agreed to continue to develop the quality assurance systems within her setting and ensure improvements are maintained.

This area for improvement is met.

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?	4 - Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	4 - Good
1.3 Play and learning	4 - 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?	4 - Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	4 - Good

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