

Jenkins, Pat Child Minding

Fochabers

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
17 August 2022

Service provided by:
Pat Jenkins

Service provider number:
SP2003904904

Service no:
CS2003008975

About the service

Mrs Jenkins is registered to provide a care service to five children at any one time up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers include the children of the childminder's family/household. Up to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16 years may be cared for during school term time.

The service is situated in a residential area of a town, it is within walking distance of a school, woods and play parks. The children are cared for in the lounge/diner and there is a toilet downstairs.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 11 August 2022. 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:

- three parents;
- two children;
- the childminder;
- observed practice and daily life; and
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

Children had built positive relationships with the childminder, this had been helped by the friendly, attentive and responsive approach of the childminder.

The childminder had got to know the needs of the children well through meaningful conversations with parents.

To help ensure that families remained central to the planning process, the childminder further develops the personal plan, and establishes a consistent system of review.

Children were able to make progress and develop. The childminder helped children to play together, learn and respect each other and to have an understanding of safety and risk.

The childminder recognised the value of working in partnership with parents in a meaningful and supportive way, taking account of their views on a daily basis.

Children were also able to develop their skills and confidence and learn about the wider world on walks and play in the natural environment.

To enhance outcomes for children, the childminder uses training opportunities and best practice, and involves children and families in the evaluation and improvement of the service.

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?	3 - Adequate
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 evaluated this key question as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children/people and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

1.1 Nurturing care and support

Children had built positive relationships with the childminder, this had been helped by the friendly and attentive approach of the childminder. Children were clearly comfortable, happy and relaxed in their surroundings. Children were helped to feel safe and cared for as the childminder was sensitive and responsive to their needs. Sleep arrangements took account of parents' views and we discussed safe practice guidance with the childminder.

Children sat at the table in the dining room for their snacks/meals, it was a pleasant and calm environment. A high chair was used for the youngest children that could be positioned next to the table, enabling the childminder to support social interaction and independence skills.

The childminder had got to know the needs of the children well through meaningful conversations with parents. Children's information was recorded in the personal plan that helped the childminder to meet their needs. We suggested that the childminder embedded the SHANARRI indicators (represents a basic requirement of what children need to grow and develop), to help support children's overall wellbeing. Personal plans were not being consistently reviewed with parents and children (where possible) to support continuity of care and development. We discussed this with the childminder (see area for improvement 1).

Parents told us that the regular conversations and communications helped to assure them that their child was well cared for and happy. They appreciated the support that the childminder gave to the whole family at times of change, and the insight into their child's needs that provided emotional security and safety.

The childminder was advised to attend local child protection training, to help ensure that their knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children remained up to date.

1.3 Play and Learning

Children had fun together and they and were able to lead their own play. They had chosen to play outside in the garden in the fresh air. They enjoyed balancing games that supported their physical development. During a game of mini lawn bowls together children concentrated and used a tape measure to gauge which of them had won. Children told us how they had been for a walk in the morning and then had a holiday treat of a snack at the garden centre.

Children were able to make progress and develop. The childminder helped children to play together, learn and respect each other and to have an understanding of safety and risk. The childminder was responsive to their interests, and also provided a mix of spontaneous and planned activities.

The childminder had got to know the child well, they recognised children's achievements and regularly shared photographs and information with parents. We discussed observation and assessment of information with the childminder and how it helped to ensure children were supported to reach their potential.

Children were also able to develop their skills and confidence and learn about the wider world on walks and play in the natural environment that included woods and play parks in the local community. The youngest children visited a toddler group that helped to supported their social development and learning.

Parents told us how they were delighted with the experiences the childminder provided. Their children got to play and explore outdoors which they really enjoyed. They considered that their child had grown in confidence and had learned a lot from their time with the childminder.

Areas for improvement

1.

To help ensure that families remained central to the planning process, the childminder further develops the personal plan, and establishes a consistent system of review, a minimum of 6 monthly.

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)

How good is our setting?

4 - Good

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

Children benefited from being cared for in a clean, well furnished and homely environment. Windows provided ample ventilation and natural light, that contributed to children's psychological wellbeing.

Children had space to play and explore. Furniture in the lounge was arranged so that children could enjoy floor activities. Sofas enabled young children to improve their balance and mobility and children to rest and recuperate. Children could use the table in the lounge for creative activities. Play resources were placed in open boxes within the lounge, so that children could make their own choices. They were rotated to take account of the ages of the children and their interests.

The garden to the rear of the property with a lawn was well used by the children. A decked covered area was beneficial to the children in hot and inclement weather. A climbing frame was beneficial to children's physical wellbeing and a selection of outdoor games were stored in the summer house which was also used by the children. We discussed the benefits of open ended (no pre-determined use) and sensory play materials that would support the extension of exploratory and imaginary play for the children. Reference: loose-parts-play-toolkit and our creative journey - hub.careinspectorate.com

The childminder had also implemented infection control practices that followed best practice guidance to support children's safety. They included disposable gloves and aprons for the purposes of nappy changing and good hand hygiene. The childminder had completed first aid training so that they were able to respond appropriately should an accident occur. We discussed the benefits of reviewing and updating risk assessments of the home, garden and outings to support the safety and wellbeing of the children (see area for improvement 1).

Areas for improvement

1.
To ensure that safe practice promoted children's safety the childminder reviews and updates risk assessments.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well maintained premises, furnishings and equipment'. (HSCS 5.22)

How good is our leadership?

3 - Adequate

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

Throughout the inspection the natural interactions that the childminder had with the children demonstrated that they had got to know them and their family circumstances well. Children were well supported to lead and make choices in their learning and initiate play from different resources. The childminder recognised the value of working in partnership with parents in a meaningful and supportive way, taking account of their views on a daily basis.

The childminder had relevant policies that supported them in running the service, although it was some time since they had been reviewed. We discussed this with the childminder so that they reflected best practice guidance and the Health and Social Care Standards My support, my life - hub.careinspectorate.com. This would also help the childminder to be reflective of the service provided and support self-evaluation.

We discussed the benefits of a concise improvement plan with the childminder, so that changes could be recorded as they occurred, to support a continuous approach to improvement. This could be as a result of seeking the views of parents and/or children, learning from training and reading best practice guidance. Early learning and childcare good practice guidance documents and the Care Inspectorate early years improvement programme, would also support reflection of practice, with a view to enhancing outcomes for children - hub.careinspectorate.com (see area for improvement 1).

Parents told us that the childminder's friendly and caring approach helped to build a good relationship, they were able to share their views openly. The childminder listened and was responsive in any communication.

Areas for improvement

1. To enhance outcomes for children, the childminder uses training opportunities and best practice, and involves children and families in the evaluation and improvement of the service.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I am actively encouraged to be involved in improving the service I use, in a spirit of genuine partnership.' (HSCS 4.7); and

'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes.' (HSCS 4.19)

How good is our staff team?**4 - Good**

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

The childminder's warmth and kindness towards the children enabled them to feel valued, loved and secure. Through our discussion it was clear that the childminder was attuned and responsive to the individual needs of the children. The childminder recognised the importance of children having fun in their play and enabling them to learn and develop.

The childminder had completed core training such as child first aid that supported children's wellbeing. We discussed how access to wider training opportunities would support a proactive approach towards their own professional development and learning and enhance outcomes for children.

The childminder had found it beneficial to establish informal links with other local childminders. It enabled them to have discussions, to share ideas and practice together and learn from each other.

During our discussion with the childminder it was clear that they had adapted their practice, taking account of the best interests of the children. They had purchased resources linked to children's interests and children had lots of fun, enjoying outdoor play.

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?	3 - Adequate
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	3 - Adequate
How good is our staff team?	4 - Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	4 - Good

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