

Primrose Children's Garden Child Minding

Aberdeen

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
27 September 2022

Service provided by:
Ursula Mathers

Service provider number:
SP2020991403

Service no:
CS2020381379

About the service

Ursula Mathers provides their childminding service Primrose Children's Garden from a three bedroomed semi-detached dwelling house in a residential area of Aberdeen. The property is close to local amenities including schools and shops, and there is good access to public transport.

Children are cared for in the childminder's lounge, kitchen, downstairs and downstairs bathroom. A child's bedroom upstairs could also be used for older children, however it is not being used currently due to the childminder caring for younger children only. Children also had access to the childminder's fully enclosed front and rear gardens.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age:

- of whom no more than six are under 12 years;
- 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.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 21 September 2022 from 12:10 - 14:50 and 27 September 2022 from 12:30 - 14:15. Feedback was provided to the childminder on 27 September 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 registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since registration.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- Observed how the childminder cared for and interacted with five children
- Spoke with two parents of children who used the service
- Reviewed documents, the environment and resources.

Key messages

- Children were cared for in a safe, warm, nurturing environment.
- Children's health and wellbeing needs were effectively supported.
- The childminder had developed nurturing and warm relationships with children and had established positive relationships with their wider families.
- Children benefitted from engaging in a range of play experiences which were child led and reflected their interests.
- Children's health and wellbeing was promoted with daily access outdoors.
- Quality assurance processes could be further developed.
- The childminder should continue with their plans to further extend their professional learning 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?	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.

Children felt nurtured by the childminder who comforted them with hugs, sat at their level and spoke with them in a gentle and calm voice.

Care was taken to support children to settle into the service at a pace that suited the children's individual needs. Parents described a process where time spent at the service was built up over an appropriate period. Although some children were taking time to settle the childminder was working with parents and considering what she could put in place to support this.

Positive and trusting relationships had been built up with families and we observed meaningful and thoughtful feedback being provided to parents during the inspection. Parents also told us that the childminder sought their input regularly to support their care of the children and ensure positive outcomes.

Children enjoyed a very positive and engaging mealtime experience. The childminder and the children all ate together and chatted about their day. The food offered to the children was very healthy and appetising and much enjoyed by the children. The childminder was reminded about the best way to cut grapes to reduce the risk of choking. There were opportunities for the children to develop their independence skills, such as taking their own cups up to the table and helping sweep the floor after lunch.

Children were supported to stay hydrated by fresh water being available at all times and children being reminded to drink.

The childminder was working hard to try and support sleep time routines that worked for all the children who required a nap. A positive, calming environment was in place to support a restful sleep. Care provided by the childminder to help children wind down and fall asleep was very much based around each child's individual needs.

Children's personal plans provided key and detailed information about each child's needs, such as their daily routine and their likes and dislikes. The childminder was reviewing these documents with parents and carers regularly to make sure the information was always up to date.

1.3 Play and learning

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 a very good understanding of child development, which meant experiences and play were based on children's development and individual learning needs. Children were actively involved in leading their play, ensuring a child centred approach which was at the heart of the service.

Outdoor play was a strong feature of the setting and supported the children to learn about the natural world around them. The children enjoyed looking at the colourful autumnal leaves they had collected on their walk that morning, talking about each colour before pressing them. They took pride and interest in putting flowers they had picked in a vase to sit on the table for lunchtime.

The children were encouraged and supported to learn skills on a daily basis. Some of the children showed us how to grind grains to make flour and told us that they used this when they made bread with the childminder. Another child told us that they had learned how to peel an apple earlier that day.

Children's language was supported through plentiful opportunities to sing songs and nursery rhymes and read stories together throughout the day.

Children had the freedom to explore a range of natural, open ended resources within their environment. This helped the children to develop their curiosity and imagination and skills, whilst also enriching their play and learning.

Children had their own learning books which showed their play and learning experiences at the setting and highlighted their achievements. The children enjoyed looking through these books, looking at and speaking about the photographs and adding in their own drawings, flower and leaf pressings.

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.

Children were welcomed into a warm and homely environment. The childminder's home was safe for children to explore and play, helping them to feel secure. Discussions with the childminder indicated that she had carefully considered risks and taken appropriate action.

Children had spaces to play, to engage in messy activities, to be energetic and to relax and rest due to the well thought out environment. Children were supported to make independent choices as they could self-select from a range of resources. These included a wide range of natural open-ended resources which encouraged them to use their imagination. We saw children really engage with various resources throughout the inspection.

The childminder's home was very clean and uncluttered and appropriate procedures were in place to control infection. Children were, for example, supported to wash their hands using best practice handwashing guidance and individual face cloths were used for drying their hands.

Children played outdoors on a daily basis which supported them to be healthy. Very good use was made of the garden, local parks and walks and visiting the local library. A parent told us that one of the things they particularly liked about the service was that the children were outdoors a lot. The parent described how their child was so engaged with water play outdoors recently that they never noticed their parent was there to collect them. Another parent told us that they particularly liked how the rear garden was set up with a number of natural resources and opportunities to explore and create.

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

3.1 Quality assurance and improvement is well led.

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 a clear vision for their service which was understood fully by the parents we spoke with. Clear and detailed information about the childminder's aims and objectives were outlined in a welcome information pack for parents and carers. Our observations were consistent with the aims and objectives of the service including the following:

'Primrose aims to create a nurturing environment where children feel comfortable in themselves and are able to develop physically, emotionally and intellectually through various stimulus, be it creative activities, walks in nature or storytelling. This will be based on a foundation of support, connection and care.'

This was the childminder's first inspection and they were motivated to ensure continuous improvement of their service to support positive outcomes for children and families. The childminder engaged very well with the inspection process and was responsive to our suggestions for development. The childminder had started to self evaluate their service identifying areas of strength and areas that could be further improved, using 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare.' An improvement plan was also in place which clearly outlined the key priorities the childminder is working on. Discussion with the childminder and looking at records evidenced that the childminder was working on these key priorities.

Children's learning books were shared with parents and carers which included pictures of activities they had engaged in, the children's art work and observations and achievements within their learning and development. Detailed feedback was provided to parents and carers at collection time. We also spoke with parents who confirmed that the childminder worked closely with them to support positive outcomes for their children. The childminder was very open to receiving feedback from parents and carers to develop her service further however told us she was going to introduce a more formal system for obtaining feedback to enhance this further.

The childminder had a variety of policies and procedures in place which which contributed to a well led service. These were shared with parents and carers. Although no children required medication administered by the childminder, advice was provided regarding the need to further develop the medication policy to ensure it fully reflected the most up to date medication guidance.

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values

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.

Children benefitted from warm and caring interactions from the childminder which helped them to feel secure and loved. They were relaxed and happy in the childminder's company. When children became unsettled this was supported well by the childminder using a nurturing approach based on the children's individual needs. Parents spoke positively of the childminder's ability to build positive relationships with their children. One parent told us that they welcomed the childminder's "really calm and gentle approach."

The childminder was well trained, knowledgeable and skilled and this showed in the very positive outcomes for children. The childminder was committed to further enhancing their knowledge and skills. They had completed the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) induction program, elementary food hygiene and paediatric first aid. The childminder was booked to attend child protection training in the near future to refresh their knowledge. They had however completed child protection training in the past and was clear about their role, responsibilities and action to take if they had concerns about a child's wellbeing. We suggested to the childminder that they also undertake relevant infection control training to ensure that their practice is kept up to date.

The childminder had kept a record of all the professional reading they had undertaken including infection prevention and control in childcare settings, children's rights, good practice guidance to prevent choking episodes and the quality framework for childcare, childminding and school aged children. We suggested that the childminder should now record post training and reading evaluations to include a reflection of learning. Reflections of learning would enabled the childminder to revisit and reflect on how learning opportunities has supported them to develop their practice, support children's wellbeing and further enhance children's outcomes.

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

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 iartras.

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.