

Kiddiewinks Child Minding

Dunfermline

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
19 October 2022

Service provided by:
Nicola Paterson

Service provider number:
SP2015987588

Service no:
CS2015342931

About the service

Nicola Patterson operates Kiddiewinks Childminding from her home which is located in a residential area of Cairneyhill, Fife. It is close to the local school and nursery, green spaces and amenities.

It is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under 12 years, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school, and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own children.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 19 October 2022 between 10:00 and 12:30. 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 4 children using the service and 3 of their families
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were happy and settled in the service.
- The childminder had developed positive relationships with children.
- Children experienced a variety of play and learning opportunities.
- The childminder had completed training which supported their professional development.
- Children benefitted from a kind and caring approach which helped them feel secure.
- The childminder's interactions were warm, caring, and nurturing towards the children.

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 made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality indicator 1.1-Nurturing care and support

Children were relaxed and comfortable in the childminders home. They benefitted from interactions that were warm, caring, and nurturing. As a result, children felt safe and secure. Children told us, "We enjoy coming here, we have fun, there is always lots to play with". All parents told us they felt their children were safe and happy in the service.

Children experienced individualised care and support that met their needs and preferences. The childminder knew children well and supported them in their chosen activity. At times, this meant some children were playing in different areas of the home. The childminder was conscious of ensuring all children benefitted from quality interactions and support when they needed it. We saw that skilled interactions by the childminder encouraged children to take the lead in their games. Children had the opportunity to bake cakes and decorate these as they chose. This supported them to develop important life skills as they learned about safety in the kitchen. Children told us they liked to bake, design clothes and draw.

The childminder had established close relationships with children and families they worked with. Children attending on the day of our visit experienced interactions that were calm and responsive to their individual needs. One parent said " The childminder is calm, I wouldn't have my child anywhere else".

The childminder provided snacks and meals. Children were consulted on meal choices and enjoyed eating together in a relaxed and unhurried atmosphere. Water or milk was also easily accessible for children. The childminder ensured that meals were healthy and nutritious and followed best practice guidance 'setting the table'.

At the time of our visit, no child required medication. We reviewed previous records and found that the childminder should change the recording of medication information. We suggested the childminder refer to the 'management of medication in day care and childminding services. This can be accessed on the Care Inspectorate Hub.

Personal plans were in place for all children and identified their individual health needs, preferences, and care routines. These had been reviewed with parents to ensure continuity of care. Children were encouraged to review their learning and agree next steps. The childminder shared how they supported children through significant life events to support their emotional wellbeing. The childminder supported individual children's personal care routines with dignity and respect whilst promoting their independence.

Quality indicator 1.3 Play and learning

The childminder provided a range of play opportunities for children to meet their needs and interests. Toys and activities were available in all play spaces. For example, one child had a keen interest in drawing animated characters. The childminder had purchased books to support them in creating their drawings. Children had access to a wide selection of craft materials. As a result, they felt valued and supported.

Children were actively leading their play. They took part in drawing, board games, football, and interactive computer games. Children were able to access these independently. This meant that they had fun. Children also had regular access to outdoor play as the childminder used local parks and green spaces. This supported children to lead a healthy lifestyle, benefit from fresh air and enjoy energetic play. We asked children if there was anything that they would like to change at the childminders. They said, "There is nothing I would change, I love everything".

Planning approaches were informal to meet the needs and preferences of children. Children told us "Before the holidays, we sat down and talked about what we would like to do". Evidence of children's chosen activities were recorded in wellbeing folders so they could re-visit and talk about the experience. Parents also received photos and updates through messenger platforms. As a result, parents felt included and were able to celebrate their child's achievements.

How good is our setting?

4 - Good

We made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality indicator 2.2 -Children experience high quality facilities

Children benefitted from a well-furnished, comfortable, homely environment with plenty of space to play. The childminder's home, garden and use of local community spaces and activities facilitated good experiences for children. Children were observed relaxing on the sofa with blankets, sharing games and cuddled into their peers at times during the visit. As a result, they experienced a sense of belonging.

The indoor environment provided sufficient space for children to play and relax in comfort. A range of toys were available that children were interested in, including small world figures, books and other age-appropriate toys. One child told us " I love coming here, the best thing is the toys".

Children benefitted from an outdoor play space to the back of the house that was secure and provided opportunities for large physical development. For example, children could play football, basketball and outdoor darts. They also had access to a wide selection of large loose parts that promoted them to be creative and problem solve.

The childminder had carried out regular safety checks to ensure children were safe in the premises. They had risk assessments in place to support the delivery of the service. We found these had not been reviewed. We advised the childminder to review these regularly and update when required to ensure any potential risks to children are minimised (See area for improvement 1).

We were satisfied that appropriate measures were in place to minimise the spread of infection. Children were encouraged to wash their hands at key times during the day. For example, The childminder had provided individual face clothes for children to dry their hands, reducing the risk of cross contamination.

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure children are safe and any risk is minimised the childminder should review and update risk assessments regularly.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: My care and support is provided in a planned and safe way, including if there is an emergency or unexpected event(HSCS 4.14).

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

We made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality indicator 3.1 -Quality assurance and improvements are well led

Children and families experienced a welcoming ethos that promoted inclusion. The childminder was kind and caring in their interactions and were confident in their approach to support children to reach their full potential. They worked closely with parents and at times other professionals to ensure positive outcomes for children. As a result, children experienced continuity of care and support.

The childminder had informal systems in place to support them in assessing the quality of the service. They spoke with parents and children daily about their preferences. We advised that consulting parents and children should be part of the service self-evaluation process. To further support evaluations and improvements in the service, the childminder should use the Care Inspectorate guidance 'A quality framework for day care of children, childminding and school aged children'. This can be accessed through the 'Hub' (See area for improvement 1).

A range of policies and procedures were in place that supported the childminder in the delivery of the service. Policies had been reviewed and shared with parents. This meant that the childminder had systems in place to support children in their care.

The childminder was aware of some best practice guidance to develop the aspects of the service. For example, they referred to 'setting the table' guidance to support menu planning that promoted healthy meal choices.

Areas for improvement

1. Consulting parents and children should be part of the service self evaluation process.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: '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 made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality indicator 4.1 -Staff skills, knowledge, and values

Children benefitted from kind and caring approaches which helped them feel safe and secure. They developed friendships with each other and were supported in developing life skills through the experiences the childminder offered. Most children had attended the service for several years. As a result, they were settled and felt included. Parents and children told us the childminder was kind, friendly and approachable.

The childminder engaged well with the inspection process. They were open and responsive to suggestions that would support improvements. Throughout the visit they supported improved outcomes for children by working in partnership with parents, local childminders and completing relevant training.

We were satisfied that the childminder was confident about their role in keeping children safe as they had completed child protection, safeguarding and first aid training.

Children benefitted from the childminder's commitment to professional development. They had completed a variety of online courses. We discussed how best practice guidance would also support their continuous learning to ensure positive impact. The childminder had good understanding of child development and how to support individual children by providing appropriate challenge in their play.

The childminder had appropriate insurances for the safety and wellbeing of children. Record keeping was maintained including attendance, children's information, and accident/incident records. This supported the delivery of the service. We suggested that childminder remove the information of children that no longer attend the 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?	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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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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