

Momac Childminding Child Minding

Pitlochry

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
7 October 2022

Service provided by:
Morag MacFarlane

Service provider number:
SP2020991184

Service no:
CS2020379573

About the service

Morag MacFarlane provides her childminding service, Momac, from her detached property in the town of Pitlochry. The minded children have access to the ground floor only, making full use of a living room, kitchen, hallway and toilet. The children can play in the paved area at the front of the house and have access to the back garden from the kitchen.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced which took place on 29 September 2022 between 11:30 and 13:30. 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, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection. In making our evaluations of the service we:

- observed the minded child using the service
- received one response to our online questionnaire
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children experienced kind, caring and nurturing interactions from the childminder.
- Children experienced frequent access to the local community.
- Children experienced a home from home environment with plenty of space to play.
- The childminder should reflect on her own practice considering what is working well and developing plans for improvement.
- Policies and procedures should be reviewed and updated to reflect 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?	3 - Adequate
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?

3 - Adequate

We evaluated this key question as adequate. While the strengths had a positive impact, key areas need to improve.

1.1 Nurturing care and support

Children experienced kind, caring and nurturing interactions from the childminder. Interactions with the minded child were respectful. The minded child had developed a trusting relationship with the childminder and was confident to seek reassurance and cuddles from her when needed. We saw that comfort, warmth and nurture was offered. This contributed to the child's wellbeing, and happiness.

Children's wellbeing was supported effectively during lunch time. The minded child experienced an unhurried and sociable mealtime. The childminder used age-appropriate communication to effectively support them. For example, she sat with them and encouraged them to eat, making eye contact and using hand gestures to support. This contributed to the minded child feeling safe and secure.

Personal plan information was basic and supported the childminder to build early attachments with the child. This contributed to the trusting, positive relationship between the childminder and the minded child.

Children were safe and protected as a result of the childminder's understanding of what to do if they had concerns about a child's health, safety or wellbeing. There was a policy in place to support families in understanding how the childminder would deal with concerns, reassuring them that action would be taken quickly. This contributed to keeping children safe and healthy.

1.3 Play and learning

The child attending the service had access to a range of age-appropriate toys such as, small world play, role play, Lego and books. Toys were stored within the play area to enable children to access them independently. This contributed to the minded child feeling valued and respected as they can make choices about what they want to play with. Although children had access to a wide range of toys, we suggested more open-ended loose part play to enhance creative thinking, problem solving skills and new learning. This would offer them endless opportunities to explore possibilities of materials and learn by trial and error.

The childminder had some information that supported her to evaluate children's progress and achievements. We discussed ways in which the childminder could develop this to effectively support and challenge children's play and learning.

The minded child experienced frequent access to the local community. Trips to parks, woodlands, library and local groups offered the child time to play and learn through connections to the wider community.

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. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on children's experiences.

2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

Children experienced a well-furnished, comfortable, bright home from home environment with plenty of space to play. The living area provided the main play area for children to explore and enjoy their toys and have cosy time on comfortable sofa.

The childminder managed her environment well to promote children's safety and wellbeing and relevant risk assessments were in place which had been reviewed to support children's safety as they played.

Good infection control measures were in place to ensure children had access to an environment that was safe and clean. This contributed to children feeling safe and secure.

Accidents and incidents had been managed well. These had been shared as necessary with parents. This contributed to effective communication with families and positive partnership working.

How good is our leadership?**3 - Adequate**

We evaluated this key question as adequate. While the strengths had a positive impact, key areas need to improve.

3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The childminder clearly enjoyed caring for children and had developed positive relationships with parents that supported her to meet children's needs daily. As a result, the childminders practice effectively supported children's care needs. The childminder had developed positive relationships with parents and carers and worked in close partnership. The childminder used daily conversation and technology to build relationships and exchange information. This helped the childminder to get to know children and provide ongoing support.

The childminder engaged well with the inspection process. They were welcoming and willing to answer the questions required to support the evaluation of the service. The childminder used her observations and knowledge of the children to plan her day linking with home routines.

The childminder should reflect on her own practice considering what is working well, how does she know and what can be improved on. Effective evaluation of her service would enable her to identify areas for development. This will enable her to plan any areas for improvement taking into consideration families' and children's views and ideas (**see area for improvement 1**).

Policies and procedures were not specific to the childminder's service; these should be reviewed and updated. Keeping up to date with best local and national current practice guidance will support the childminder to develop her skills and ensure children receive a quality service (**see area for improvement 2**).

Areas for improvement

1.

To ensure improvements are made that have a positive impact on the outcomes for children, the childminder should record self-evaluation to create a plan for improvement.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which state that: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes.' (HSCS 4.19).

2. Policies and procedures should be reviewed in line with local and Scottish best practice guidelines to support the childminder in delivering their service. Any updates should be shared with parents.

This is to ensure that care and support is in line with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state: "I experience high quality care and support based on relevant guidance and best practice" (HSCS 4.11).

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. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on children's experiences.

4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values

During the inspection, we saw that the childminder had kind and nurturing interactions with the minded child. This contributed to them feeling loved and supported in their care. We found that the minded child responded positively to the support provided by the childminder, and they were given an appropriate amount of time to listen and respond to instructions.

The childminder was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) which helped to keep her informed of current best practice. We signposted her to some national practice guidance to research and further enhance her knowledge and skills, necessary to provide a quality service. These included Realising the ambition: Being me and 'My Childminding Journey' both available on the Care Inspectorate Hub.

The childminder had engaged in some professional development opportunities such as forest school. This contributed to the childminder being confident in how they delivered outdoor learning experiences. The childminder would benefit from updating their skills and knowledge in relation to providing high quality play and learning experiences for children, for example loose parts and schematic play. This will support the childminder to enhance minded children's experiences.

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?	3 - Adequate
1.1 Nurturing care and support	4 - Good
1.3 Play and learning	3 - Adequate

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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