

McKenzie, Angelique Child Minding

Dumbarton

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
25 October 2022

Service provided by:
Angelique Mckenzie

Service provider number:
SP2003903320

Service no:
CS2003005570

About the service

Angelique Mckenzie provides a childminding service from the family home in Dumbarton, West Dunbartonshire. The service is delivered from the family home with children accessing the open plan lounge, kitchen and upstairs toilet.

Children have access to a secure garden at the back and side of the property. There are a variety of interesting and curious resources available to support children's learning and development.

To provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of 6 will be under 12, 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 children of the childminder's families.

The service is close to local amenities including green spaces and local schools.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 20 October 2022 between 13:15 and 14:45. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about the 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:

- interacted with one child using the service;
- sent out a family questionnaire and received two responses;
- spoke with the childminder;
- observed practice and daily life; and
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

Courteous, warm and respectful approach by the childminder helped children to feel valued, loved and secure.

The childminder recognised the importance of children having fun in their play that enabled them to learn and develop.

To keep children safe and secure, the childminder has suitable safety equipment and monitoring in place.

To support continuous professional development, the childminder undertook training with West Dunbartonshire Council and other providers.

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

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.

Quality Indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support

On the day of inspection, there was one minded child present. We observed caring and warm conversations and interactions between the childminder and child.

The minded child told us they had been attending the service since primary one and were now in primary seven. She said, "Angie does a great job."

The childminder recognised the benefits of families being central to their child's care. We found the childminder used children's and families' personal preferences to meet the needs of each child. This meant families' wishes were respected and that they were fully involved in making decisions about their experiences and expectations.

Each child had a personal plan which had been developed with children and their families. 'All about me' information reflected children's unique health, care routines, likes and dislikes. These plans were regularly reviewed and updated to ensure effective information sharing. The childminder uses this information to promote consistency and continuity of care.

Children's food preferences were reflected in their personal plans. We found that children were fully involved in choosing their snacks and lunch. They also had the option to bring a packed lunch. Children had access to fresh water throughout the day, which helps them stay hydrated. We found the childminder followed national guidance on food standards which was reflected in nutritious and healthy food options. One parent said, "great variety of lunches and snacks, all very healthy."

The childminder used a secure social media group to share children's care, play and learning experiences with their families. This included daily updates, photographs and videos. Parents told us they were constantly kept up to date about their children's experiences. This means families can feel secure and confident about their children's daily experiences.

Each child had a floor book and photo album to celebrate their achievements. These documented children's learning experiences, photographs, artwork and milestones. The childminder tracked these experiences and told the story of the child's progress. They included mini beast hunts with binoculars and magnifying glasses. The childminder sent the floor books home for families to view and comment on.

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and Learning

The childminder encouraged children to be actively involved in their play and learning. Children enjoyed a variety of resources which stimulated their interest and curiosity. These included a house corner, a large play kitchen and an assortment of easily accessible tubs with a variety of toys.

Play and learning extended into the garden, where the childminder had erected a gazebo. This contained a range of resources including, tuff trays for messy play, an easel for art and containers for water play. Children could move freely between indoors and out. One child said, "we can go into the garden all the time."

To stimulate children's imagination and confidence, the childminder participated in 'let's go outside' a daily outdoor maths challenge aimed at younger children.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

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.

Quality Indicator 2.2: children experience high-quality facilities

Children benefited from being cared for in a very comfortable, clean, welcoming environment with plenty of natural light and ventilation. This gives a strong message to children that they matter.

Children had plenty of space to play, have fun and relax. Resources were clean and well-maintained and included arts and crafts, puzzles, board games and construction. They reflected the age and stage of development of children. Toy storage units, which were low and open, enabled children to freely choose what wanted to play with and when.

The garden at the rear and side of the property was easily accessible and secure. The childminder introduced some creative play materials which allowed children to develop their imaginary play. Items included sections of plastic guttering and crates for construction.

The childminder had completed first aid training. This meant if an accident occurred she could respond appropriately. Accident and incident forms were completed to ensure the correct information was recorded and shared with families. This ensures continuity of care for children.

To keep children safe and secure, the childminder has suitable safety equipment and monitoring in place. This includes child safety locks on kitchen cupboard doors. We found risk assessments were completed both indoors and out. The childminder used this information to review, assess and manage potential risks.

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

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.

Quality indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The childminder had quality assurance measures in place which supported positive outcomes for children. They included child protection and accident and incident procedures which safeguard children's safety and wellbeing.

To develop the service and support planning, the childminder used verbal feedback and questionnaires to seek the views of children and families. One parent said they, "had ample opportunity to feedback suggestions to Angie."

The childminder told us the last written evaluation of the service was completed in 2020. We advised the childminder to reintroduce the process of recording family views. This will enable the childminder to demonstrate that self-evaluation is formally used to improve outcomes for children.

We suggested the childminder use a service improvement plan template to reflect, record and track any changes to the service. This supports a continuous approach to improvement.

Children's success and achievements were shared with families through social media updates and conversations at pick-up and drop-off. One parent told us, "I am constantly kept up to date, it is lovely."

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

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.

To support continuous professional development, the childminder undertook training with West Dunbartonshire Council and other providers. Training sessions included numeracy and literacy and engaging with nature. This means that children and families benefit from a well-trained practitioner. The childminder used this training to further develop the children's interest in nature, encouraging them to take part in 'Betsy bug love saves the bees'.

The childminder was responsive to the individual needs of children. Their courteous, warm and respectful approach helped children to feel valued, loved and secure. Children's confidence was supported as the childminder encouraged them to be curious and independent.

The childminder encouraged one child to develop their interest in art and design by supplying art and fine drawing books and journals. This approach is responsive and is a stimulating way to promote children's curiosity and confidence.

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

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