

Addie, Joanna Child Minding

Musselburgh

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
13 December 2022

Service provided by:
Joanna Addie

Service provider number:
SP2003909415

Service no:
CS2003015063

About the service

Joanna Addie provides a childminding service. The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of seven children at any one time up to 16 years of age. Other conditions are noted below:

- 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.

An additional time limited condition is also noted on the certificate.

The childminder uses their home for the provision of the service. The two-storey house is in a quiet residential area of Musselburgh in East Lothian. It is close to a number of local parks and amenities. Children use the ground floor of the home for their play, which includes a designated playroom and supervised access to the kitchen/diner. There is access to the rear garden for outdoor activities.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 13 December 2022 between the hours of 11:15am and 14:00pm. 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 people using the service
- received email feedback from four families
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents

Key messages

- The childminder worked hard to build strong relationships with families. Parents all commented positively on the effective and supportive relationship they had with the childminder.
- Positive attachments contributed to the children feeling valued, supported and loved. The childminder was warm, kind and compassionate.
- A wide range of rich learning experiences was provided which helped to develop children's literacy, numeracy, imagination, creativity, and critical thinking skills.
- The childminder demonstrated they were highly committed to using learning from professional development to deepen their knowledge and skills.
- Continuous improvements were being made as the childminder used feedback from families and best practice information to guide their practice. They may wish to consider introducing formalised self evaluation processes.

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?	6 - Excellent
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	6 - Excellent

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 people. Therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

QI 1.1 - Nurturing care and support

Children were happy and confident in the childminder's care. They benefitted from secure attachments and enjoyed positive, nurturing interactions from the childminder. Children were valued as individuals as the childminder took time to build relationships with each child and their family members. Parent's comments were all positive about the relationship they have with the childminder and one commented "my childminder is a massive support to me, probably without even realising it".

Children's needs were met by a childminder who valued them as individuals. They understood the importance of nurture and how this provided an environment for children to thrive and grow. Loving, caring and warm relationships provided support to children, helping them to build resilience and promote their emotional well-being.

Partnership working and information sharing was well established between parents and the childminder. Parents felt included in their child's care through regular updates. This included an informative daily blog and parents commented positively about this aspect of the service. Comments included "the childminder has a blog where she describes each day and also attach photos so we can see what they were up to every day" and "reading the daily blog is one of my favourite parts of my day! It provides details on my children's nap time, food diary as well as providing pictures of the activities that they have got up to that day. It always gives a great insight into my children's adventures with the childminder and the other children".

Children's individual needs were supported by effective personal planning. Information on children's routines, wellbeing and learning needs were well documented and showed how children were achieving and progressing. Information was regularly updated and showed how the childminder would provide relevant support for each child. Parents commented "If I have any concerns with my child's development then I discuss it and we agree a plan to support my child" and "My childminder is very invested in my child and their development and am so grateful for this. She has a lot of experience and it's been amazing to have her support".

Mealtimes were a positive experience for the children. Healthy and nutritious food was served and they were provided with a drink to keep them hydrated. The childminder supported the children during this time, whilst promoting their independence.

Children required a sleep during the inspection and the childminder used buggies but also provided a travel cot when necessary. We discussed 'Safe Sleep Scotland' guidelines that recommend children lie flat to sleep and spoke about guidelines and promoting the best for the health and safety of children.

Children were protected by the accurate recording of medication, accidents and incidents, which were shared with parents. Clear policies and procedures were in place to protect children from harm. The childminder understood the role they played in keeping children safe and had developed this by undertaking Child Protection training.

QI 1.3 – Play and Learning.

Children had fun taking part in a wide variety of play experiences that reflected their interests and stage of development. The childminder was enthusiastic about enabling children to choose their own play experiences, toys and resources. A parent confirmed that the childminder "adores the children and enjoys supporting them develop and learn". Sensitive and skilled interactions were used to extend children's thinking and learning. Parents all confirmed that the childminder provides different activities and always included a "good selection of musical instruments, role play, sensory toys and lots of books!". Another parent commented "I absolutely love when my child brings us stuff he has made. It is clear the childminder is a very creative person who enjoys crafts and home made things".

The childminder had a range of loose parts materials to support children during play. These are natural materials that can develop children's curiosity, creativity and imagination. These were easily accessible and regularly reviewed to ensure they were meeting the needs of the children who attended.

The childminder regularly observed children to assess their interests and stages of development. Photographs, observations and evaluations were used to show children's learning and achievements. Moving forward the childminder told us she planned to develop individual learning books for children. She had identified that it would help children feel valued as individuals and support her to assess their progress and development.

Children experienced daily outdoor play experiences, which kept them active and allowed them to have regular fun, playing outdoors. Children and parents appreciated the frequent trips to local parks, beach and meeting up at local community groups. Parents also shared their views and commented "The childminder takes the children to the park most days (weather permitting) and she also has a beautiful garden. I've always been very impressed with the range of outdoor toys she has and the summer house too. I also love that she grows vegetables in her garden too so the children can learn where their food comes from" and "The children go out every morning for a walk with the dogs and usually go to the park or to feed the ducks. The childminder makes it educational along the way – looking at the weather, nature, cars, trains etc. The children also go to toddlers playgroup on a Wednesday which my youngest son really enjoys".

How good is our setting?

6 – Excellent

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 excellent.

QI 2.2 – Children experience high quality facilities.

Children experienced a warm, friendly and welcoming home from home environment. A dedicated play room provided a spacious and interesting area for the children. The children used the kitchen for eating, undertaking arts and crafts and baking. Parents all agreed that the childminder provided a homely caring environment and comments included "I know my child is safe, warm and secure when he goes to Joanna's. It is like a home from home" and "Joanna's home is like a home from home. My children really feel as if they are part of the family when with Joanna and the other children".

The childminder placed a great emphasis on developing the children language and literacy skills. There was a wide range of books that children independently accessed. A range of resources that were age appropriate, interesting and attractively displayed meant children were engaged and having fun.

A parent commented "my child is always bursting to tell me what toy he played with that day. He has great fun at the childminders and loves reading with her".

Children made very good use of the enclosed garden and a parent commented "I have also seen the garden set up during the summer months and it is incredible". Frequent visits to the nearby park provided opportunities for physical play such as climbing and ball games. As a result, children experienced regular fresh air and exercise, which promoted lifelong appreciation of the health benefit of being outdoors and keeping active. Parents commented "my child plays outside every day and loves the local playpark which is very close to the house" and "The children love playing with the outdoor toys in summer in the garden and have fun painting and crafting with the tough spot tray".

Children benefited from an inclusive environment that was well organised for them. All areas of the home were well maintained and risk assessed which promoted children's safety. The spread of infection was minimised by effective cleaning measures. Well established routines were in place for handwashing which children were familiar with.

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the setting, and how these supported positive outcomes for children. Therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

QI 3.1 - Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The childminder knew families well and had formed caring, professional relationships with parents. The childminder was a skilled practitioner and routinely reflected on her practice to make improvements. She consulted meaningfully with children and their families, to support improvement. As a result, parents felt safe, happy and secure to leave their child in the care of the childminder. Parents were extremely complimentary about the service and comments included "I feel very included in the service and feel comfortable to input and feedback on any of the activities" and "the childminder also provides written feedback forms whereby parents are asked about how things are going and any suggestions we may have or ideas".

The childminder had not yet developed a formal improvement plan, however, she spoke about her plans to continue to reflect and undertake more professional learning to develop aspects of her service. This included using the knowledge gained from training around nurture, attachment and trauma informed practice to ensure children built up secure and positive attachments. We could see the positive impact this had on children who were secure and happy. We suggested that a formalised self-evaluation approach could support the ongoing journey of improvement that the childminder was committed to. The childminder may wish to use the following good practice guidance: 'A quality framework for daycare, childminding and school aged children' (Care Inspectorate, 2022) to reflect and document improvements made to the service. Parents informed us that the childminder "had played a key role in my child's development and this is due to the loving, educational and safe environment that the childminder has created" and "I'm very grateful to have found such an incredible childminder for my child and would highly recommend her services to all".

How good is our staff team?

6 - Excellent

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 excellent.

QI 4.1 - Staff skills, knowledge and values

The childminder had a formal teaching qualification and had used her knowledge and understanding around child development to provide an outstanding service. She was professional, motivated and places great importance on developing respectful relationships with families and children. Throughout the inspection she consistently showed that children were respected, loved and safe. We could clearly see that the childminder used her skills and knowledge to support outstandingly high outcomes for children. This included detailed information held within children's personal plans to support well-being. The range of resources and activities as well as the value placed on play. A warm and safe environment, and the range of professional development undertaken. Parents were extremely grateful for the support and care she provided. Comments included "I honestly can't fault anything about my childminder and the service she offers. She is very professional whilst being a genuinely kind and caring person. She loves all of the children like her own and she has been a crucial part of my child's development in the past 18 months", "my childminder goes above and beyond with her service" and "I can't describe how lucky I was to find such an experienced and caring childminder".

The childminder was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association and often engaged with other childminders to share learning and best practice. This provided opportunities for the childminder to gain ideas, develop knowledge, and reflect on practice, contributing to positive outcomes for children. Regular training and learning was embedded in the childminder's practice. This helped her to ensure children and families were supported and evaluate the quality of the service, and make improvements where needed.

The childminder had a very good understanding of her professional responsibilities. She worked within her conditions of registration and ensured children's safety by gaining insurance, keeping registers, and maintaining the premises to a high standard.

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	6 - Excellent

How good is our setting?	6 - Excellent
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	6 - Excellent

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?	6 - Excellent
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	6 - Excellent

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