

Jack, Evelyn Child Minding

Dunfermline

Type of inspection:
Announced (short notice)

Completed on:
17 January 2023

Service provided by:
Evelyn Jack

Service provider number:
SP2003904295

Service no:
CS2003007310

About the service

Evelyn Jack provides a childminding service from their property in a quiet residential area of Cairneyhill, Dunfermline. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months.

The service is close to a local primary school, shops, parks and other amenities. Children have access to the kitchen, playroom, and downstairs toilet.

About the inspection

This was a short notice inspection which took place on 16 January between 13:30 and 16:30. Feedback was given by telephone on 17 January 2023. One inspector carried out the inspection.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke to four children and two parents
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were at the heart of the service and were cared for by a childminder who knew them and their families well.
- Children were cared for in a nurturing and respectful environment.
- Children were encouraged to be independent and learn life skills.
- Children were encouraged to have a voice, their opinions and preferences were valued and respected by the childminder.
- The childminder made good use of local facilities helping children feel included in their local community.
- Children were supported to be safe at all times.

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

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|--|---------------|
| 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.

1.1 Nurturing care & support

The childminder was warm, welcoming and nurturing in her approach. Children were relaxed and confident around the childminder and in the environment, supporting them to feel safe and secure.

The childminder's interactions were kind, caring and respectful. When talking to the children, the childminder listened carefully and was responsive to children's wishes and choices. They were aware of, and understood, the children's gestures and actions. As a result, the children's voices were heard, and their needs were met. Comfort and reassurance were given when needed contributing to positive attachments between the childminder and children.

Children were treated as individuals as the childminder knew them and their families well. They had built strong relationships with children and families, supporting children to feel secure, respected and valued.

The childminder provided a sociable and unhurried snack experience for children with lots of chatting and interaction. Children sat together at the dining table in the kitchen, promoting a family atmosphere. This was used as a rich opportunity to support children to build skills for life such as spreading their own crackers. The snacks that were offered were balanced and nutritious. The childminder took into consideration individual preferences of children. Children had access to fresh water and milk and were encouraged to remain hydrated. This approach supported children to develop a positive relationship with food and eating.

Information was gathered for all children in their personal plan. This information supported the childminder to meet children's individual needs. The childminder reviewed this information with families at least every six months. We signposted the childminder to the guidance 'Personal Plans - Guide for Providers, Early Learning and Childcare' which may help the childminder in further developing the plans. This guidance is accessible on the Care Inspectorate Hub.

Children were protected from harm by the childminder who had a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities in safeguarding children. The childminder had accessed refresher child protection training and was confident in recognising and responding appropriately to any concerns.

1.3 Play and learning

At the time of the inspection the childminder only provided before school and after school care. Children attended the service for a short time each day. The childminder ensured this time was relaxing and fun. Through discussions with children and their families the childminder provided a range of activities and resources to support individual interests. Children helped to choose and prepare their own snack and this approach ensured children were developing a broad range of lifelong learning skills. For example, pouring milk and spreading independently.

The childminder interacted with children in a responsive and nurturing way. The childminder used open-ended questioning, which supported the young children to develop skills in understanding, thinking and problem solving. This approach encouraged children to feel valued and included. For example, encouragement and praise were given to children regularly. This was also displayed on the star board which celebrated individual achievements of all children. This supported children to develop their confidence and feel secure in the service.

The childminder recognised the importance of the outdoors to promote children's health and wellbeing. The children walked each day to and from school and nursery and had regular opportunities to play outside and be energetic. The childminder spoke about the many places they liked to visit, and we saw photographic evidence of outings such as visiting the park and shopping for snack foods at the supermarket. This encouraged children to make connections with their local community.

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.

2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

The environment was homely, well maintained and welcoming which allowed children to feel safe and secure. The children had use of most of the downstairs area of the house. This included the playroom, dining/kitchen and toilet. Children were observed to move around freely with confidence and had the choice of where to play.

The playroom was set up thoughtfully with low level storage, that was easily accessible for children. This encouraged independence and freedom of choice. A variety of resources to support different play experiences and age ranges were on offer. Rugs created a cosy space that allowed children to play on the floor comfortably. These all helped create a welcoming feel to the service.

We discussed the benefits of introducing more natural, loose parts resources to support children's imaginative play opportunities. We signposted the service to www.playscotland.org for further information on loose parts play.

Children attending the service were kept safe through the various systems the childminder had in place. The childminder explained that they completed daily visual checks before children arrived as well as at the end of the day. Some risk assessments were in place, and these could be further developed. We suggested these should be clearly dated and should be reviewed and updated regularly to support a safe environment for children.

Effective infection prevention and control practices were embedded into daily practice. We saw children confidently washing their hands when they entered the setting and before snack. This meant that children were safe from the potential spread of infection.

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.

3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The childminder was committed to the development of their service. Evaluating their service was an ongoing process. Children and families were actively involved in this through questionnaires and regular discussion. By listening to the views and suggestions of both children and families this encouraged them to feel valued, included and respected.

Children were listened to and involved in the day to day running of the service. This included being consulted on activities, snack menu planning and trips or outings. The childminder took this feedback into account when reviewing the service. This approach empowered children and showed them that their opinions mattered.

The childminder valued communication with families and used technology to update them about their child's time at the service. The childminder regularly sent photos to families to ensure they felt included and involved in their children's care. Parents told us they really appreciated the high level of communication they had with the childminder.

We acknowledged that the childminder reflected daily on their practice and the service provided and used this to bring about positive changes to outcomes for children and families. We suggested that the childminder should develop a more formal approach to self-evaluation. This would inform an improvement plan to ensure continuous improvement. We signposted the childminder to self-evaluation guidance on the Care Inspectorate Hub.

The childminder had a range of policies and procedures in place supporting them to provide a quality service. Parents told us they were always kept up to date by the childminder through a What's app group, which contributed to them feeling included and well informed.

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.

4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values

The childminder was warm, kind and compassionate with children in their care. They understood the importance of developing positive attachments with both children and their families. This contributed positively to children's overall wellbeing and helped them to feel loved, valued and secure.

The childminder had a very good understanding of how children develop and learn. Skilful interactions supported children to grow, develop and achieve. The childminder was knowledgeable about current best practice guidance and reflected on this to improve their practice. For example, children's wellbeing needs

were met well through positive relationships which had been developed with their families. This ensured children and families were valued and included.

The childminder demonstrated a commitment to their own learning and development. They had successfully completed a range of online courses relevant to their role including first aid and child protection to help safeguard children's wellbeing. We also discussed how reviewing best practice guidance documents on: The Care Inspectorate Hub could also support practice and individual learning. This supported positive outcomes for children and their own professional development.

The childminder was registered with the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) providing access to resources and support to help develop the quality of the service. This demonstrated a commitment to providing high quality care for children.

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

The childminder needed to update training in key areas and further develop her knowledge of current best practice guidance to inform her work and support service improvement.

This area for improvement was made on 6 June 2016.

Action taken since then

The childminder has undertaken a variety of training courses to support their practice for example First Aid, Child Protection and Autism training.

Previous area for improvement 2

The childminder needed to complete care plans for all children and ensure that the information is reviewed and updated at least every six months. This would further help her to plan for individual children and to review changing care needs with parents.

This area for improvement was made on 6 June 2016.

Action taken since then

All children have a care plan in place this is completed in consultation with families. These plans are updated at least every six months to ensure the childminder has the most up to date information to meet children's needs.

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

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| 1.3 Play and learning | 5 - Very Good |

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