

Tanya Gardiner Childminder Child Minding

Castle Douglas

Type of inspection:
Announced (short notice)

Completed on:
7 October 2022

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2016988536

Service no:
CS2016351403

About the service

Tanya Gardiner Childminding was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 25 July 2017. The service is registered to provide a care service to 4 children under the age of 16, years of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The childminding service is located in Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway. The service is close to local parks, forest areas, schools and other amenities. The children are cared for in

About the inspection

This was a short announced inspection which took place on 5 October 2022. 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 and their family
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents

Key messages

- Children experienced warm, nurturing care from the childminder which helped them feel happy and secure.
- Outings within the local community enhanced children's experiences, built their confidence and supported development of their skills.
- The childminder should continue with plans to review, update and improve the recording aspects of running her 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?	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

1.1 Nurturing care and support

On the day of inspection, children were chatty, happy and comfortable in the childminders home. Children sought the childminder out for comfort and support, the childminder offered warmth and reassurance through cuddles and praise which helped them feel loved. One parent told us "The childminder provides a loving and nurturing environment".

Children were supported to develop friendships in the setting with the childminder encouraging them to play together and share toys. We observed the children playing together with a variety of toys on the day of inspection such construction toys, books, arts and crafts.

Children were cared for by a childminder who knew them and their families well. The childminder had recently reviewed and amended her personal plan template to support clearer processes for tracking and recording children's development. Next steps and strategies were identified in the children's plans.

Families were communicated with through face-to-face meetings, whatsapp messages and telephone calls. Information shared through daily chats with families ensured the childminder had up to date information to support children's needs and preferences. The childminder should continue with plans to create online learning journals for children through her minding kids app to share children's learning and achievements with families.

Children experienced a positive lunch time that was unhurried and relaxed. The children were able to choose what they would like to eat and when they would like to eat. The childminder sat with children offering support and ensuring their safety. Lunch provided was nutritious and in line with healthy eating guidance. Fresh water was available in age-appropriate cups with the childminder prompting children to drink to remain hydrated.

We sampled the medication policy and consent forms. We suggested the childminder add a section to her consents to details signs and symptoms. This is in line with current good practice guidance 'Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services'.

Children's personal care needs were met by the childminder who demonstrated knowledge of safe nappy changing practice. The childminder had appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and changing mat available, if required.

1.3 Play and Learning

Children were listened to at the service. They were encouraged to make decisions about their play through discussions with the childminder. The pace of the day was relaxed and led by the children. Children were offered different play opportunities by a childminder who was mindful of their needs and interests.

Children had access to a variety of toys that were suitable to their age and stage of development, including loose parts and natural open-ended materials. The child minder responded to children's interests and initiations of play by providing toys, support and guidance when appropriate.

Children's health and wellbeing was promoted with regular access to the outdoors. The childminder took children to local spaces daily such as the park, forest and beach which extended children's experience and promoted their resilience. Children discussed enjoying trips outdoors which provided opportunities for them to explore a natural environment, support health and wellbeing through active play, and extend their play opportunities. One parent told us "There are always a range of activities for my child, as well as, regular trips and outdoor activities which she loves"

The childminder has recently reviewed her paperwork for recording observations of children and is currently engaging with her local early years team to expand her knowledge of linking her assessments to the curriculum. Developing this knowledge and process will support the childminder to deliver person centre planning and individualised care to children in her setting.

The childminder should continue with plans to develop and extend children's learning in literacy and numeracy within the setting as she becomes more familiar with frameworks and curriculum.

How good is our setting?

4 - Good

Children were cared for in an environment that was clean, bright and homely. The environment was safe and stimulating for the children attending. Children had space to play together, relax on the sofa or have space and time to themselves if they wished.

We observed children confidently move between the rooms available to them. Due to the weather conditions children were not able to access the garden but had plans to go out in the afternoon to the local park. The childminder, as set out in her own improvement plan, should progress the development of her garden resources to support safe, fun and stimulating play opportunities for children in her care.

Children could lead their play as they could easily access toys and equipment which were stored in large tubs within the living room. Toys available were linked to children's interests. Loose parts play was also supported by a variety of materials readily available for children.

The childminder was aware of her responsibility to maintain a safe environment for children in her care. Policies and risk assessments were in place for many aspects of the service. Including children engaging with the family pets. The childminder should continue to review these regularly to ensure they remain in line with current good practice guidance. We suggested the childminder create a consent form specific to children playing and helping care for the family pets.

We sampled accident and incident records and found these were completed appropriately, the information had been shared with families and signed in line with current good practice guidance.

The service had appropriate infection prevention and control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and the childminder. However, the childminder should be mindful of good practice such as handwashing before and after snack with soap and water.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

The childminder engaged well with the inspection process and was responsive to our suggestions for development.

A clear vision and aims had been created for the service. The childminder was motivated about her role and keen to support her service to develop and improve.

The childminder knew children and their families well and had positive relationships with them which supported meeting children's needs. The childminder valued the opinions of those using the service and spoke to them verbal and through messages on a regular basis. We suggested the childminder introduce a formal way of evaluating her service, for example an annual questionnaire for families to complete when evaluating her improvements and planning for future ones. Parents told us they were able to give suggestions for improvement and the childminder always listened to their feedback.

The childminder had developed a range of policy and procedures which were shared with parents ensuring that they knew what to expect from the service. The childminder should continue to review these in line with current legislation and good practice guidance. We suggested the child protection policy be updated to include the contact details of the local authority safeguarding team.

A complaints procedure was available and provided parents with accurate information about who to contact if they had concerns. We asked the childminder to update her policy to confirm any complaints would be responded to within 20 days. We requested the childminder update the contact details for the care inspectorate.

The childminder had valid insurances in place for her service, contributing to a safe environment for children.

How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

Children were supported by a childminder who was warm and responsive in her interactions which helped them feel safe. She interacted in a sensitive, responsive and stimulating way to promote curiosity, independence and creativity. One parent told us " The childminder is loving and my children feel happy and safe with her".

The childminder had engaged in several courses to further develop her practice. For example; safeguarding children, food hygiene and first aid training. Over the covid pandemic and due to personal circumstance the childminder was unable to attend other training opportunities. The childminder should continue to resource training that will support her own development and have positive outcomes for the children in her care. We signposted the childminder to the Scottish Social Service Council 'My learning' app to record training attended and any reflections which would support embedding new learning into practice and highlight any gaps in knowledge.

Membership with the Scottish Childminding Association supports the childminder to keep up to date with developments in the sector. The childminder was registered with the Care Inspectorate for provider updates and receives support from the local authority Early Years Education Team.

The childminder with support from the local early years teams had developed her knowledge of milestones, development, curriculum and how to track these appropriately in her personal plans. The childminder should continue to engage in this process to support consistent and qualitative care to children her setting.

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

In order to ensure children's personal plans are reviewed every six months, or sooner, if the needs of the child change. Each child's plan should include information about the child's health, safety and wellbeing needs and their likes and dislikes.

This area for improvement was made on 7 June 2018.

Action taken since then

The childminder had introduced a new template for personal plans, observations, reviewing children's development and recording next steps with strategies.

Previous area for improvement 2

In order to continue to develop her knowledge and understanding, the childminder should review her current learning needs and access training, as appropriate.

This area for improvement was made on 7 June 2018.

Action taken since then

The childminder had undertaken training on first aid, safeguarding, food hygiene as well completing personal reading of loose parts play and curriculum for excellence which helped developed her knowledge, understanding and skills.

Previous area for improvement 3

In order to continue to identify the strengths and areas for improvements in her service, the childminder should develop an ongoing-going assessment of what she does and involve parents and children, as appropriate.

This area for improvement was made on 7 June 2018.

Action taken since then

The childminder had introduced a self evaluation process and improvement plan for her service. She had engaged with children and families through the process and continues to develop methods to record their feedback.

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	5 - Very 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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