

Scallywags Day Care Child Minding

Dumfries

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
19 December 2022

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2009973589

Service no:
CS2019375907

About the service

Sallywags Day Care Services registered with the Care Inspectorate in 2019. The childminder is registered to provide care to a maximum of six children at any one time, up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than three are not yet of an age to attend primary school, and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The service is provided from the childminder's home within a residential area of Dumfries, close to local schools, shops, parks and other amenities. Care is provided on the ground floor of the house where children can access a dedicated playroom, kitchen-diner and living room. Children also had access to a secure rear garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Thursday 15 December 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 some children and with three parents of children attending the service
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents

Key messages

The childminder interacted with the children and responded to their needs with a calm approach.

Children's health and wellbeing were supported through opportunities to be active and engage in outdoor play.

The childminder had created a warm, homely environment where children could play, rest, and relax.

The childminder was organised and kept clear records, helping them to fulfill their professional responsibilities.

A professional ethos was evident within the setting as the childminder had kept up to date with training.

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?	5 - Very 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

Overall, we evaluated this key question as good for this key question, as several important strengths, when taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

1.1 nurturing care & support

Children experienced nurturing care and kindness. The childminder interacted with the children and responded to their needs with a calm approach. The childminder understood the importance of developing positive relationships, and their practice was consistent throughout our visit, offering lots of cuddles and caring interactions. One parent told us, "Yes. Always feel like I can speak to the childminder if I have any questions". Another said "If I mentioned to the childminder about something I would like support with the childminder will incorporate it into the daily routine".

The childminder understood the importance of supporting the routines of the youngest children, including sleeping arrangements. We observed parts of the daily routine and noted that the childminder understood the benefits of close supervision and warm interaction. This included where children sleep, which contributed to a safe, caring environment for children. The childminder shared how the other child slept on a sleeping mat in the playroom, and the other child slept in a cot in the living room so they did not disturb each other.

The childminder shared her knowledge of the importance of children's safety, emotional security, and wellbeing. We sampled children's personal plans, which had details of the child's voices, their likes and dislikes, and their families' wishes. The personal plans were reviewed regularly by parents and the childminder.

Snack time was a calm and relaxed experience for the children. The childminder gave the children a choice of snack. The children and the childminder enjoyed chatting and singing together in an unhurried and relaxed atmosphere, ensuring a caring and positive social experience. Food choices are nutritious and reflect the current NHS Setting the Table guidance.

Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children played happily together in the dining room and playroom during our visit, and we could see that they had developed positive friendships with each other. The childminder was responsive to the play cues of the children present. Being down at the child's level enabled them to interact sensitively and helped create a fun environment for play.

Children confidently led their own play and could choose from a range of appropriate resources displayed in open shelving units with boxes to support children's independence. This ensured that children chose resources that supported their interests and preferences.

Children's health and wellbeing were supported through opportunities to be active and engage in outdoor play. The childminder understood the importance of children having opportunities to play outside and promoted this through visits to local green spaces. This promoted children's learning and supported them in developing strong links with nature and the wider community. A parent shared, "My child is out multiple times a day, farm parks, parks, forests, walks. The garden area has a range of different activities for my child to play with, mud kitchen, and activity tables. My child prefers to be outside, so I feel that this is managed to a very high standard".

Some planning is in place for afterschool children; this should be extended to include younger children. Parents are kept up to date with photos through social media, there is a need to make sure development is extended through observations and linking with tracking and personal plans. **(see area for improvement 1)**

Areas for improvement

1. Outcomes for children should be improved through the development of planning for the younger children that broadens opportunities and adds depth to all aspects of children's play and learning.

This to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'As a child, my social and physical skills, confidence, self-esteem and creativity are developed through a balance of organised and freely chosen extended play, including using open-ended and natural materials' (HSCS 1.31)

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

Quality indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities

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.

The childminder had created a warm, homely environment where children could play, rest, and relax. All areas accessed by children benefitted from natural light and were well ventilated. The environment was comfortable, clean, and maintained to a high standard.

Children could access the secure garden at the rear of the property, which provided opportunities to spend time outdoors in the fresh air. The children also enjoyed visits to places in the local and wider community, including parks, playgroups, and places of interest. The childminder had developed written risk assessments for outings and the garden which had been kept up to date and reviewed.

Children's safety and wellbeing were promoted through effective infection prevention control practices. Children were reminded to wash their hands at key times, and we observed that children were confident with handwashing routines. We observed that these routines were embedded.

The childminder had registered with the Information Commissioner's Office and understood their responsibilities in relation to safely storing children's personal data. This helped protect children's privacy.

Clear policies and procedures are in place to ensure consistent approaches across the setting. They have been reviewed and updated as and when required.

Improvements have been made to the playroom since the last inspections, and the storage unit has helped organise the resources, so it is easy for children to choose. This supports the development of independence. Loose parts play resources were available indoors and outdoors, allowing children to develop curiosity and problem solving.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

Quality indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvements are led well

We made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, when taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Children benefitted from effective partnership working between parents and the childminder that supported their care and learning routines to be met. One parent told us, "I receive information every day that my child is in the childminder's care. The quality is always clear, I know where they have been, how my child has eaten, and if there were any problems".

The childminder was organised and kept clear records, helping them to fulfil their professional responsibilities. Policies and risk assessments supported the service's operation and minimised risks to children. The childminder reviewed and updated them as and when required.

Children's views were listened to, and their wishes were acted on. For example, the children wanted to play with magic sand, the childminder supported the children and extended the children's learning by giving out cake cases and encouraging the children to role play making cakes. The childminder was kind and caring in her interactions with the children and had confidence in supporting children to reach their full potential.

The childminder mostly used informal ways to consult families and gain their views of the service. In the new year the childminder plans to send out an electronic questionnaire. The childminder was reflective and discussed positive changes that had taken place since the last inspection. To continue to build on this, and support the development of children's experiences, we asked the childminder to consider how children's voices could more clearly be recorded within their existing quality assurance processes. This will ensure that all stakeholders feel valued and that their views inform improvements within the service.

The childminder had completed a self-evaluation process which supported them in evaluating their service provision, using care inspectorates, A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding, and school-aged childcare. This should form the starting point for the childminder's improvement planning. The childminder is now well placed to adopt a more reflective approach to identifying strengths and areas for further improvement throughout their service and further development with children and parents to be included.

How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

Quality indicator 4.1: Staff skills, knowledge, and values

We made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, when taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

The childminder's interactions were warm, kind, and compassionate, enabling children to feel loved and secure. Parents told us that children benefitted from their relationship with the childminder, "The service meets my daughter's learning needs, emotional needs, physical need and help her develop". We observed the childminder to be attentive to children's needs as they skilfully balanced tasks while maintaining quality interactions. The childminder was enthusiastic about their role in caring for children and was keen to ensure children received care that met their needs.

A professional ethos was evident within the setting as the childminder had kept up to date with training such as first aid, 'Realising the Ambition' Education Scotland 2020 and Play Scotland. This helped ensure that their knowledge in these areas was current, which contributed to a safe and stimulating environment for children. We found that the childminder would further benefit from completing post-training evaluations as this will allow them to reflect on any knowledge and skills gained and identify how they could develop their service resulting in improved outcomes for children.

Through discussion, the childminder demonstrated that they were aware of their role and responsibilities to protect children in their care, including contacting the relevant agencies in the event of any concerns. The childminder's child protection training was up to date, and a policy was in place.

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 should develop personal plans for all children registered to attend her service. Personal plans should be developed for children within 28 days of attending the service and should identify how the childminder plans to meet children's individual health, welfare and safety needs. Personal plans should be reviewed with children and parents at least every six months or sooner, where required.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'My personal plan is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15).

This area for improvement was made on 6 April 2022.

Action taken since then

We found that appropriate action had been taken. All personal plans were up to date and had clear next steps and strategies to support children's development. Personal plans had been reviewed by parents and the childminder dated and signed.

This area for improvement is met.

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?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very 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

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.