

Little Drummers Childminding Service

Child Minding

Peterhead

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
23 January 2023

Service provided by:
Yvonne Simpson

Service provider number:
SP2018989899

Service no:
CS2019374197

About the service

Little Drummers Childminding Service is located near the village of Maud in rural Aberdeenshire.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service to 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. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family. Minded children can only be cared for by persons named on the certificate and no overnight care will be provided.

The accommodation is on one level and the children can access the kitchen/play area, additional cosy room for quiet play, rest and relaxation, and bathroom. There is a large grassed area for children to run around and other landscaped areas for outdoor play.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 23 January 2023. 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 children using the service
- spoke with five of their parents/carers
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily experiences
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children and their families felt very welcomed and supported by the childminder.
- Children were supported with nurturing and caring interactions.
- Children were able to play and rest in a homely and clean environment.
- The childminder followed infection prevention and control (IPC) procedures to help keep children safe and well.
- Children benefited from a service committed to continuous improvement. This was reflected in the development of the outdoor shelter and play area.
- The childminder would benefit from further engagement and ongoing training and professional development, including safeguarding and protecting children.

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

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

1.1 Nurturing care and support

Children and their families experienced a friendly and welcoming service. Parents described the childminder as "a wonderful and kind lady" and appreciated the flexible approach taken in order to meet their child's needs. Daily chats and information sent using What's App kept parents informed about their child's day. This meant they felt confident and reassured their child was happy and well looked after.

Children were supported with kind and nurturing interactions. The children present during inspection were too young to talk to us, however they were settled and happy in the childminder's care. The childminder's calm and gentle demeanour contributed to a relaxed ethos where children felt comfortable to attend. The children looked to the childminder for reassurance and were given warm cuddles and comfort. This demonstrated positive attachments and good relationships, supporting the children to feel safe and at ease.

Children's overall wellbeing was well supported through the effective use of personal planning. The childminder knew the children well as parents provided key information when they started at the service. Personal plans were renewed regularly with parents to ensure the information remained current and up-to-date. Parents told us they had worked collaboratively with the childminder when children were toilet training, ensuring a continuity of care. This contributed to working together to meet children's needs.

Children enjoyed a healthy packed lunch brought from home. This meant children ate foods they enjoyed and were well fed. Some snacks were provided by the childminder and included fruit and toast. Parents told us these were enjoyed by their children and felt their likes and dislikes were well catered for. Young children either sat in a high chair or on the childminder's knee during lunch and benefited from the support and help given. Older children sat at the kitchen table which provided opportunities for chat and modelling of good eating habits. Children were offered drinks to ensure they were kept hydrated, which included diluting juice. We discussed providing only water or milk to reduce sugar and promote good dental health.

Children's sleep routines were well supported and reflective of their family's wishes. Children were soothed to sleep with a comforting cuddle and relaxing music. They benefited from sleeping in warm and cosy cots which could be easily supervised by the children. This meant they were kept safe when sleeping and wakened well rested and ready to play.

Children's safety was promoted when administering short-term medication. Parents signed and dated when medicines were brought in and administered to the children. However, there was not enough information to support the safe storage of medication. We discussed further developing the recording forms to include where and how medication should be stored. The document 'Management of Medication in Daycare of Children and Childminding Services', found at: <https://hub.careinspectorate.com>, should be accessed to support this.

1.3 Play and learning

Children were offered a variety of play resources to support and develop their learning. There were some

age-appropriate toys that reflected children's current interests and curiosities. Parents told us they were happy with the activities provided and that there were lots of toys to keep their children entertained. However, there were limited natural resources and loose parts to stimulate their creativity, imagination, and problem-solving skills. We discussed adding these types of resources to fully engage children and sustain their thinking.

Children's current interests and curiosities were used to plan some activities they enjoyed. Older children completed an 'All About Me' describing what they enjoyed doing and toys they enjoyed playing with. Younger children were provided with games and activities they were interested in. The childminder should now find a method of recording children's achievements and learning. This will support them in further identifying when children need more support or challenge to help children reach their full potential.

Some language and literacy development was promoted during play activities. The childminder read stories to the children who giggled and laughed when a hand puppet appeared in the book. Parents told us older children benefited from support when learning Scottish poems for school. To support children's learning and development, the childminder should embed more opportunities for language and numeracy development in everyday activities, such as snack and mealtimes. More consideration should be given to the type of resources needed to sustain and engage children's interest in order to promote learning.

Children emotional health and wellbeing was promoted through opportunities to play outdoors. The large garden and newly developed outdoor area encouraged children to go outside, helping to keep them fit, well, and healthy.

How good is our setting?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Children were able to play and rest in a homely and welcoming environment. The open-plan kitchen/living area provided ample space for children to relax, play games, and eat. The dining table provided opportunities for children to develop their creativity through arts and crafts and playdough activities. The comfortable sofas provided a place for younger children to sit and read stories with the childminder, as well as being a place for older children to relax and chat with friends.

Children were able to access a small playroom and sleep area. This was warm and cosy, however the toys and games were disorganised and did not support children's choice or independent play. Children would benefit from better storage that supports easier access and visibility of toys and games.

Children's health and wellbeing benefited from opportunities to play outside. The large grassed area supported children's physical development with opportunities for the children to run around and play games. Since the previous inspection, an outdoor shelter with a mud kitchen had been erected. This looked very attractive and meant children were able to access outdoor play whilst protected from the wind and rain. The childminder described their plans to further develop this area with more opportunities for imaginative and creative play. The Care Inspectorate document 'My World Outdoors' provides inexpensive ideas to support this.

Children were kept safe and well in a clean environment. Robust infection prevention and control procedures were followed and the children were encouraged to wash their hands at key times, such as before eating

and after going to the toilet. They were provided with clean hand towels to help prevent illness through cross-contamination.

Children were kept safe and well in an environment where potential risks had been identified. For example, children waited indoors until the school bus arrived. Annual risk assessments of the environment had been completed to help identify any possible hazards and prevent any accidents. We discussed the benefit of an additional risk assessment for the newly developed outdoor shelter and the childminder agreed to action this.

Children's personal information was stored confidentially in a safe location. However, the folder which contained the children's personal plans was over-flowing, increasing the potential for files to become loose and lost. The childminder agreed to consider a more effective way to store the children's information whilst ensuring their confidentiality.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

The aims of the service included providing a safe, warm, and friendly environment providing creativity and growth for children. This was shared with families, helping them understand what to expect from the service.

Children and their families were kept safe and well by a range of relevant and up-to-date policies. These supported the childminder in their practice and demonstrated a commitment to providing a good service which meets the needs of the children and their families.

There was some potential for children and families to become involved in the service and influence change. Parents were welcomed into the childminder's home and encouraged to chat and share information. Pictures and messages were sent using What's App to keep parents informed. They told us they were very happy with the service provided and felt the childminder was easy to talk to and approachable. Children were at ease in the childminder's company and older children were able to voice their own opinions and views. The service would benefit from additional ways to gather information and comments to support positive change and continuous development.

Some quality assurance procedures and self evaluation were used to evaluate and develop the service. This included regularly reviewing the children's personal plans and researching and developing the outdoor area to support creativity and imaginative play. However, the childminder recognised they had not kept up-to-date with recent guidance to support self evaluation. The childminder should make use of the document 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding, and school-aged childcare' to support continuous improvement and improved outcomes for children.

How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Children's wellbeing was supported through respectful and compassionate interactions. The childminder had a good relationship with the minded children and chatted and talked to them in a kind and friendly manner.

They regularly checked to ensure they were happy and that their needs were met. This approach supported children to feel valued and secure and contributed to a positive ethos.

The childminder had accessed core training, such as first aid and food hygiene. They were able to discuss techniques to help children in the event of choking or in minor accidents. Their clean and tidy home was reflective of their good knowledge and understanding of infection prevention and control. Since their last inspection, they had researched the use of chronologies and were confident when discussing their processes to protect children. However, they had not been able to access training to ensure their knowledge remained current and up-to-date. We discussed accessing online training in the interim and enrolling on face-to-face training through the Aberdeenshire Council's training resource ALDO (Aberdeenshire Learning and Development Online).

Children and their families benefited from a childminder who was committed to providing quality care. The childminder had undertaken some professional development and discussed researching outdoor play opportunities. In order to develop their knowledge and understanding, they had visited a local nursery outdoor play area and read articles sent by the SCMA (Scottish Childminding Association). To support the childminder further with their professional development, we signposted them to a range of resources on the Care Inspectorate Hub. Regularly accessing resources and best practice documents will help ensure good outcomes for children and support improvement of the service.

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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