

Angie's Childminding Child Minding

Kilmarnock

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
30 January 2023

Service provided by:
Angela Keen

Service provider number:
SP2012984213

Service no:
CS2012312782

About the service

Angie's Childminding service registered with the Care Inspectorate on the 15 February 2013.

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 Kilmarnock, close to local schools, shops, parks and other amenities. Childminding takes place on the ground floor of the home with children having access to the living room and kitchen, and the upstairs family bathroom. Children also had access to a secure rear garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection, carried out by one early learning and childcare inspector, which took place on 24 January 2023. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about the service. This included, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection. In making our evaluations of the service we:

- observed practice and daily life
- spoke with children using the service
- reviewed documents
- spoke with the childminder
- emailed parents/carers to gather their views and feedback.

Key messages

- Children experienced warm, caring and nurturing approaches that supported their overall wellbeing.
- The play experiences on offer helped develop children's language, literacy and numeracy skills.
- The indoor and outdoor environments were sensitively structured and accounted for all children's development and learning stages.
- The childminder was keen to improve positive outcomes for children.
- Children were having fun in their play.
- The childminder supported the children in building links in their community.

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?	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

1.1 Nurturing care & support

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.

Children experience warmth, caring and nurturing approaches to support their overall wellbeing. We observed a child who needed some support to sit. The childminder supported the child on her knee, and the child cuddled into the childminder. The childminder also encouraged another child to take his coat off and hang it up himself. The childminders care and interactions encouraged children to be independent and to develop life skills.

The children self-served snack, cutting up their grapes and picking apples from the fruit bowl. They enjoyed eating together in an unhurried and relaxed atmosphere. This helped to ensure that it was a caring and positive social experience.

Children's overall wellbeing was supported through the effective use of personal planning. For example, children safety needs were being met with children learning about road safety. We sampled personal plans and saw that the information had been shared with children and families. This process ensures effective information sharing, which the childminder uses to promote consistency and continuity of care.

The children attending the service did not require medication; however, the childminder had recorded information when she had previously administered medication to children, and we found that appropriate documentation was implemented at that time. Our review of the documentation and discussions with the childminder demonstrated they understood their responsibility to administer medication safely.

The childminder had a good understanding of her role in relation to child protection. She had participated in training and was alert to potential signs of abuse. We have asked the childminder to develop further safeguarding policy which was carried out before the end of the inspection to support the childminder with this, we have shared links to the Scottish Government National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021.

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2021/09/national-guidance-child-protection-scotland-2021/documents/national-guidance-child-protection-scotland-2021/national-guidance-child-protection-scotland-2021/govscot:document/national-guidance-child-protection-scotland-2021.pdf>

1.3 Play & learning

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.

We observed children make informed choices about leading their play and learning within a stimulating, challenging, creative setting. The childminder has carried out careful observations and practical assessment of information, progress and achievements that were recognised and enhanced in the children's learning plans. A parent told us, "The childminder lets me know the activities she is going to be doing with them. They often come home with work and any activities they have completed".

The play experiences on offer help develop children's language, literacy and numeracy skills. We observed good use of extending children's learning through good questions and interactions which supported children's learning and development through play.

The childminder had a very good understanding of child development, relevant theory, and practice which they skilfully used to support high-quality play and learning experiences for the child. This was clear in the interactions between the child and the childminder. The childminder demonstrated an understanding of when to step in to help and when to step back and let the child do something independently. The child's needs were being met through these skilful interactions.

The childminder supports the children in building links in their community through the toddler group and community shop. For example, the children met older people who came to the community shop, as well as other young children. A parent told us, "The childminder is very involved in the community and is able to inform me of anything that is going on that she thinks would be beneficial to my children. She helps out with charities and involves the children as well. Which I think is amazing". Regular connections with their own and other communities enhanced the quality of children's play and learning experiences.

We have asked the childminder to develop loose parts and open ended resources indoors and outdoors; to support the childminder with this, we have shared links to Loose Parts Play Toolkit.

https://www.playscotland.org/resources/print/Loose-Parts-Play-Toolkit-Revised.pdf?plsctl_id=10924

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

2.2 Children's experiences and high-quality facilities

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.

The indoor and outdoor environments were sensitively structured and accounted for all children's development and learning stages. We observed an older child happy and having fun building with blocks, the younger child sitting with support from the childminder, and playing with sensory toys. The childminder showed good knowledge of when to step in and when to step back. A parent told us, "I have raised concerns with the childminder regarding the time off school due to Covid and the things they had missed out on. The key areas I was worried about. The childminder helped my children work on those".

The setting was very comfortable, furnished to a very high standard and welcoming, with plenty of natural light and ventilation. This meant that the spaces used by children were welcoming and pleasant to be in.

The play and learning environment offered exciting play spaces to meet children's need for familiar and novel experiences. One child showed me where the toy kitchen was and said, "Here is a cup of tea for you". The Children's needs have been considered, and the play and learning environment offered exciting play spaces to meet their needs.

The childminder's home was well maintained, clean and tidy. The childminder had a good understanding of the arrangements in place for cleaning. Risk assessments had been undertaken that addressed the current guidance regarding infection prevention and control. We reviewed the risk assessment and found they were of a very good standard. This meant children benefited from a safe and secure environment.

The outside area supported children to access a wide range of play and learning opportunities that helped their well-being. The wigwam in the garden offers a quiet space for a story or a cuddle. A parent told us, "My child has daily experiences of being outdoors when in the childminder's care. My child especially enjoys going on walks when the dog Peggy is there. His walking Independently has improved since starting with the childminder".

How good is our leadership?**5 - Very Good****3.1 Quality assurance and improvements are led well.**

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.

The childminder was keen to improve positive outcomes for children. This was clear with the ongoing training the childminder had undertaken. For example, the childminder was knowledgeable regarding 'Realising the ambition: Being Me' by Education Scotland 2020. This ensured positive outcomes for children.

Children's and families' views were actively sought to inform the development of the setting. The childminder had used a paper questionnaire; however, was looking into further development this by using an electronic method. The childminder hoped this will be more successful as it is more convenient for parents to access. This showed a willingness to improve and to include the parents in any improvements. A parent shared with us; "I think she's amazing with my children. It's like dropping them off with a family member. I know they are in safe hands. She has a really good bond with them. And they love her. She is a big part of their life as she has had them for a long time".

The childminder had worked to ensure she used evidence based best practice to inform her practice and the continued development of her service. We observed this in the layout of her environment, which was well planned to support children's independence to access resources of their choice and promote their learning.

Self-evaluation was in place using the care inspectorate A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare 2022. The childminder had begun to develop an improvement plan with the children and families. Once this is fully in place, this will support the childminder to maintain a high quality service.

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

4.1 Staff skills, knowledge, and values

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.

We observed the childminder supporting the children with warmth, kindness and compassion, enabling children to feel valued, loved, and secure. Samples of personal plans and the children's learning plans showed how the childminder had meaningfully individualised support by effectively engaging with children and taking account of their views and experiences, and families wishes.

The childminder continues to develop her childcare skills and knowledge, to ensure children experience a wide range of care, play and learning opportunities in an environment that is sensitive to their needs and wishes. Training had been undertaken in Understanding Children & Young People's Mental Health and Transition Matter in Childminding Setting. Children were happy, content and stimulated within the childminding environment.

Children were having fun in their play. This enabled learning to be taken forward. The childminder used skilled questioning and interacted in a sensitive, responsive and stimulating way to promote curiosity, independence and confidence within her setting.

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	5 - Very Good

How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good

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?	5 - Very Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	5 - Very 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.