

Duck, Linda Child Minding

Aberdeen

Type of inspection:
Announced (short notice)

Completed on:
15 December 2022

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2005943206

Service no:
CS2005087749

About the service

Linda Duck provides a childminding service from their home, a first floor flat within the Tillydrone area of Aberdeen. Local parks, green spaces and schools are within short walking distances. A bus service provides routes to the city centre and beyond.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of five 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 24 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. Overnight service will not be provided.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced follow up inspection which took place on 15 December 2022. One inspector carried out the inspection. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluation we:

- Spoke to children during their play
- Spoke with the childminder
- Observed practice and experiences for children
- Reviewed documents.

Key messages

- The childminder had completed training in child protection, first aid and food hygiene. This supported the care and health needs of children.
- Children would still benefit from a wider selection of play equipment that promoted natural learning and curiosity.
- Children would benefit from more regular and meaningful play time outdoors.
- The childminder was working up updating risk assessments and policies to help them to support how they care for children.
- The childminder had not yet identified further learning needs and accessed opportunities related to the roles of the professional childminder and up to date best practice guidance.
- Regular and meaningful evaluation of the service had not taken place.

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?	3 - Adequate
How good is our setting?	3 - Adequate
How good is our leadership?	3 - Adequate
How good is our staff team?	2 - Weak

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care, play and learning?

3 - Adequate

Children would still benefit from a wider selection of play equipment that promoted natural learning and curiosity. The childminder had made some changes to include more shelving for children's toys. This helped create a way for children to self-choose what they would like to play with during their time with the childminder. A few new toys had been purchased that were open ended and allowed for more natural curiosity and role play. For example, a new set of wooden shopping items was in place that children enjoyed playing with.

This is an ongoing area of improvement and will be carried forward to the next inspection.

Areas for improvement

1. To support their learning and development and to promote children's curiosity, inquiry, and creativity the childminder should:

- Provide more open-ended, natural resources for children to explore in their play
- Ensure that children have access to a wide range of activities and experiences both indoors and out.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state 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?

3 - Adequate

Children would benefit from more regular and meaningful play time outdoors. Children occasionally used the concrete area outside for pedal and push along toys and sometimes went to the park. This was not regular enough to provide children with enough regular outdoor play and exercise. A recommendation had been made at the previous inspection however this had not been met.

The childminder had not yet made progress in this area. This is an ongoing area of improvement and will be carried forward to the next inspection.

Areas for improvement

1. To support their learning and development the childminder should provide children with meaningful, regular outdoor play and exercise.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'As a child, I play outdoors every day and regularly explore a natural environment' (HSCS 1.32).

How good is our leadership?**3 - Adequate**

Regular and meaningful evaluation of the service had not taken place. This meant that children and parents did not have the opportunity to formally feedback on how well the childminder was meeting their needs, choices and wishes. A recommendation had been made at the previous inspection however this had not been met.

The childminder had not made any progress in this area yet. This is an ongoing area of improvement and will be carried forward to the next inspection.

Areas for improvement

1. To improve practice and outcomes for children the childminder should develop ways of getting feedback on their service and then use this information to make positive changes.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

How good is our staff team?**2 - Weak**

The childminder had not yet identified further learning needs and accessed opportunities related to the roles of the professional childminder and up to date best practice guidance. A recommendation had been made at the previous inspection however this had not been met.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all who use the service, the childminder should develop their skills in risk assessing and put this into safe practice. An area for improvement had been made on a previous inspection which had not been met.

The childminder was seeking support and working with the local development officer from the organisation 'Scottish Childminding Association.' The childminder was working on updating policies and risk assessments to help them to support how they care for children in a way that meets the standards expected.

This is an ongoing area of improvement and will be carried forward to the next inspection.

Areas for improvement

1.
To help keep children safe the childminder should ensure that they have written permission from parents and carers for any extended outings and ensure outings are fully risk assessed.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I am helped to feel safe and secure in my local community' (HSCS 3.25).

2. To ensure that the childminder provides support to children in line with best practice to keep them safe and healthy the childminder should:

- Identify what training they need to update and progress this
- Review and update policies and procedures to ensure that they fully support them in their role and reflect current best practice.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice' (HSCS 4.11).

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Requirements

Requirement 1

By 12 July 2022 to support the safety and wellbeing of children, the childminder must update their knowledge and practice on child protection, first aid and food hygiene.

In order to comply with Regulation 4. (1) A provider must (a) make proper provision for the health, welfare, and safety of service users of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements of Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI2011/210).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that:

'I have confidence in people because they have been trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes' (HSCS 3.14).

This requirement was made on 17 May 2022.

Action taken on previous requirement

The childminder had attended core training events between May and June in child protection, first aid and food hygiene areas of practice.

The childminder kept accounts of their reflections as a result of the training and how this then supported them in their role for caring for children's individual needs. This was recorded in the children's personal plans. This supported the care and health needs of children in their care.

Met - within timescales

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

To support their learning and development and to promote children's curiosity, inquiry, and creativity the childminder should:

- Provide more open-ended, natural resources for children to explore in their play
- Ensure that children have access to a wide range of activities and experiences both indoors and out.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state 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).

This area for improvement was made on 17 May 2022.

Action taken since then

Children would still benefit from a wider selection of play equipment that promoted natural learning and curiosity. The childminder had made some changes to include more shelving for children's toys. This helped create a way for children to self-choose what they would like to play with during their time with the childminder. New toys had been purchase that were open ended and allowed for more natural curiosity and role play. For example, a new set of wooden shopping items that children enjoyed playing with.

The childminder was in the process of decorating their second bedroom which would give minded children more space to play and areas to store suitable toys and resources.

The childminder had begun to collect items, such as wooden pieces and tubes, to build on open ended loose parts play opportunities for children.

This is an ongoing area of improvement and will be carried forward to the next inspection.

Previous area for improvement 2

To support their learning and development the childminder should provide children with meaningful, regular outdoor play and exercise.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'As a child, I play outdoors every day and regularly explore a natural environment' (HSCS 1.32).

This area for improvement was made on 17 May 2022.

Action taken since then

Children would benefit from more regular and meaningful play time outdoors. Children occasionally used the concrete area outside for pedal and push along toys and sometimes went to the park. This was not regular

enough to provide children with enough regular outdoor play and exercise. A recommendation had been made at the previous inspection however this had not been met.

The childminder had not yet made progress in this area. This is an ongoing area of improvement and will be carried forward to the next inspection.

Previous area for improvement 3

To ensure positive outcomes for children and the development of their knowledge, skills and service, the childminder should source and access training, including food hygiene, first aid, child protection and behaviour management.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'As a child I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes' (HSCS 3.14).

This area for improvement was made on 17 May 2022.

Action taken since then

The childminder had attended core training events in child protection, first aid and food hygiene areas of practice.

The childminder kept accounts of their reflections as a result of the training and how this then supported them in their role for caring for children's individual needs. This was recorded in the children's personal plans. This supported the care and health needs of children in their care.

This has been met.

Previous area for improvement 4

To ensure that the childminder provides support to children in line with best practice to keep them safe and healthy the childminder should:

- Identify what training they need to update and progress this
- Review and update policies and procedures to ensure that they fully support them in their role and reflect current best practice.

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This area for improvement was made on 17 May 2022.

Action taken since then

The childminder had not yet identified further learning needs and accessed opportunities related to the roles of the professional childminder and up to date best practice guidance. A recommendation had been made at the previous inspection however this had not been met.

The childminder was seeking support and working with a local development officer from the organisation 'Scottish Childminding Association.' The childminder was working on updating policies to help them to support how they care for children in a way that meets the standards expected.

This is an ongoing area of improvement and will be carried forward to the next inspection.

Previous area for improvement 5

To help keep children safe the childminder should ensure that they have written permission from parents and carers for any extended outings and ensure outings are fully risk assessed.

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This area for improvement was made on 17 May 2022.

Action taken since then

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all who use the service, the childminder should develop their skills in risk assessing and put this into safe practice. An area for improvement had been made on a previous inspection which had not been met.

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This is an ongoing area of improvement and will be carried forward to the next inspection.

Previous area for improvement 6

To improve practice and outcomes for children the childminder should develop ways of getting feedback on their service and then use this information to make positive changes.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

This area for improvement was made on 17 May 2022.

Action taken since then

Regular and meaningful evaluation of the service had not taken place. This meant that children and parents did not have the opportunity to formally feedback on how well the childminder was meeting their needs, choices and wishes. A recommendation had been made at the previous inspection however this had not been met.

The childminder had not made any progress in this area yet. This is an ongoing area of improvement and will be carried forward to the next inspection.

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?	3 - Adequate
1.1 Nurturing care and support	3 - Adequate
1.3 Play and learning	3 - Adequate
How good is our setting?	3 - Adequate
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	3 - Adequate
How good is our leadership?	3 - Adequate
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	3 - Adequate
How good is our staff team?	2 - Weak
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	2 - Weak

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