

Little People Childminding Child Minding

Motherwell

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
7 March 2023

Service provided by:
Sandra Boyle

Service provider number:
SP2019990527

Service no:
CS2019374888

About the service

Little People Childminding is registered to provide care 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.

The service operates from the childminder's family home in a residential area of Motherwell, North Lanarkshire. Shops, parks, schools and other amenities are nearby. Children were cared for on the ground floor of the property and had access to front and rear gardens.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 7 March 2023 between 09:30 and 12:00. 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 and three of their family members
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

Children attending the setting were happy, comfortable and well cared for.

Personal plans supported meeting children's needs.

Play experiences were fun and promoted children's learning and development.

The home was clean, tidy, bright and well ventilated, providing a welcoming environment for children and families.

Children received care in a safe environment.

Self evaluation helped secure positive outcomes for 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?	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

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.

1.1 Nurturing care and support

Children attending the setting were happy, confident and settled. They had positive relationships with the childminder who interacted with them warmly, supporting good wellbeing. One child said "I like coming here" and a parent added "my child is completely settled with Sandra."

Personal plans supported meeting children's needs. They were reviewed regularly and updated to reflect children's wishes, choices and development needs. Parents confirmed this and one said "Sandra works extremely well with me to identify my child's needs and wants to support me with them." Children excitedly shared their folders with us, highlighting their learning and achievements. One child said "I've been here for a lot of years, I have my own folder and it shows everything I can do."

Nappy changing procedures supported children to feel secure and confident. They were changed in response to their needs, in a discreet space of the home to protect their dignity. Use of aprons, gloves and a wipeable mat helped to prevent the potential spread of infection.

The childminder provided children with nutritional snacks and meals, contributing to their good health. Parents told us "I am impressed with the variety of food on offer, from simple sandwiches and yoghurt to mince, potatoes and curry, all of which my child loves." Children agreed and one commented "lunch is always good and healthy." Water was available at all times to ensure children were hydrated.

1.3 Play and learning

Children participated in high quality play experiences that were fun and promoted their development. For example, measuring, counting and imagining as they pretended to cook with water outside. Parents were impressed with the experiences on offer and said, "I feel Sandra offers a wide range of appropriate activities to encourage my child's development and core skills" and "the children are always busy, learning and having fun."

The childminder interacted skilfully during play to extend children's thinking and support their curiosities. For example, by introducing new vocabulary, sensitively asking questions and suggesting inclusion of new materials. This helped children extend their ideas and develop a sense of wonder about the world.

Children were exposed to a wide range of vocabulary through storytelling. They were developing their understanding, listening skills and imagination as they independently explored books and listened to familiar stories. One child said "this is my favourite story, I love books."

The childminder had created a curious and challenging play environment. Natural materials coupled with favourite familiar toys supported children to explore and develop their own ideas. They enjoyed making perfume with flowers and water, mark making on frosted tables and constructing models with magnetic blocks.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

2.2 Children experience 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 childminder's home was comfortable, well maintained, bright and airy. This created a home from home environment for children where they felt relaxed and safe. Parents agreed and one said, "I love that it is a home from home environment for the kids."

Toys and spaces reflected children's interests and stage of development. In the playroom, they could independently access materials that supported them to lead their play and learning. The playroom had direct access to a secure rear garden, providing children with choices about where they wanted to play. The living room was a calm and cosy space for children to relax, sleep and refresh in response to their needs.

Children were protected from harm through a variety of safety measures. These included, safe storage of hazardous materials, assessing and addressing any potential risks and maintaining the car used to transport children. Parents were confident that their children received care in a safe environment and one said, "the home is safe and clean for the kids."

Infection prevention and control practices minimised the potential spread of infection, creating a safe environment for children. For example, regular handwashing and cleaning.

Children were developing their confidence in social situations as they explored the local and wider community. They often went to toddlers, parks and the library. One child excitedly told us about a recent outing to a farm park, commenting, "we went to see the animals, it was so good, I was brave enough to feed the alpacas and the sheep." A parent added, "I am particularly pleased that Sandra takes advantage of local toddler groups and library services, as well as linking up with other child minders and having days out and activities. I feel this has had a massive part to play in how sociable my children are."

Children's personal information was securely stored and managed. The childminder was registered with the Information Commissioner's Office which supported compliance with data protection regulations.

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

3.1 Quality assurance and improvement 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 vision and values of the service were reflective of the needs and aspirations of children and families. Aims of the setting included, providing care in a stimulating, fun and safe environment where each child feels happy. Parents were in agreement with the vision and commented, "I am very pleased with the service Sandra offers" and "the delivery of the service meets our needs."

Communication with families supported meeting children's needs. Regular face to face discussions and daily text messaging provided an opportunity to build connections with families where meaningful conversations took place about children's care. Parents confirmed this saying, "Communication is fantastic. I have every opportunity to tell Sandra about what my child needs" and "I feel very at ease that I can communicate my wishes for my child and I feel very comfortable with this."

The views of children and families were sought to support development of the service. Responsive care made sure children's rights were respected and immediate changes made on children's request. For example, adding a new toy to the playroom or choosing whether to go outside or not. Regular questionnaires provided in-depth opportunities for older children and families to share their views about improvements needed. The childminder reflected on these and used information received to improve outcomes for children. Parents valued the opportunity to contribute their views and one said "questionnaires have given me the opportunity to suggest anything I'd like to see my children taking part in."

Self evaluation supported the delivery of high quality care and support. The childminder reflected against best practice guidance, identifying strengths and areas for improvement. A recent example of this was where the childminder recognised a need to learn more about the Curriculum for Excellence to help them track children's progress and learning formally.

The childminder had developed working relationships with others in the profession. This meant that improvement conversations were happening regularly, and were helping the childminder to develop aspects of the 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.

The childminder was friendly, approachable, warm and knowledgeable. This created a welcoming environment for children and their families, within which they felt valued, safe and secure. Parents told us "Sandra is on hand to offer advice from everything from naps to bedtime" and "I feel that Sandra is a great support to our family."

Regular training and learning had supported the delivery of high quality care. The childminder held a professional qualification and regularly updated their knowledge through reading, training and interacting with others in the profession. For example, attending recent child protection training had strengthened the childminder's knowledge on how to protect children from harm.

Use of best practice guidance ensured the childminder had a very good understanding of child development. They used the national practice guidance 'Realising the Ambition' to reflect on children's experiences, spaces and interactions, making regular adaptations to meet children's changing needs.

The childminder had a clear understanding of their professional responsibilities. They worked within their conditions of registration, and promoted children's safety by gaining insurance, keeping registers and maintaining the home to a high standard.

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

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