

Kerry Childminding Child Minding

Inverurie

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
20 February 2023

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2015987503

Service no:
CS2015342181

About the service

Kerry Childminding provides a childminding service from her property in a quiet residential area of Oldmeldrum. 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 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The service is close to a local primary school ,shops, parks and other amenities. The children are cared for in the kitchen/diner, play room, living room and downstairs toilet. Children also have access to an enclosed rear garden most of the year.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 20 February 2023 between 09:45 and 14:45. One inspector carried out the inspection. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- made contact with eight parents of children who attended
- spoke with the childminder and children
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- The childminder was nurturing, warm and caring in their approach with children.
- The childminder knew the children and families well, supporting families as well as the children.
- The childminder made good use of local facilities helping children feel included in their local community.
- The childminder will use their self evaluation document to support with ideas for an improvement plan for the setting.
- Updating the settings vision, values and aims with children and families would capture what is important to everyone using the service.

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?	4 - 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 and 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.

The childminder had formed positive relationships with the children in their care, sharing warm and caring interactions. They were responsive to children's needs, providing comfort and reassurance as required. The childminder knew children well and spoke confidently about all children in their care. The childminder knew children's interests and spoke about their personalities and characters.

Parents said: "the childminder knows my child very well; she knows what they like and dislike". Another parent said: "she has been a brilliant support for any issues we have had and provides suggestions and help; she does lots of activities she knows my child enjoys, as well as those that help her move forward with her development". This promoted positive outcomes for children as the childminder was able to develop children's interests and could provide care that was individualised. Children were observed to be happy, secure and settled.

Each child had a personal plan which was used to gather information relevant for their continued care and wellbeing. These were completed with parents and supported the childminder to meet children's individual needs. Parents said they were given the opportunity to provide information and had input in developing these plans. The childminder had recognised the importance of safeguarding children, and chronologies were in place to capture significant events in children's lives. These would highlight any potential safeguarding issues arising and ensure that appropriate actions had been taken to keep children safe and well.

The childminder took a respectful approach to children's personal care and talked to the children as they changed their nappy. Appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment) was used and we saw that good hand washing practices had been built into the daily routine. This contributed to the children being healthy, safe and well.

During our visit children slept in the living room in a ready-bed (mattress and cover) and a buggy. The childminder was aware of best practice guidance and was working with the parents to ensure the comfort and safety of their children.

The service's policy detailed how the childminder would safely manage the administration of medication. Medication was stored safely in accordance with current best practice. Signs and symptoms were clearly documented in medication plans which ensured the childminder could manage medication effectively. This helped keep children safe and well.

Meal time was a social, unhurried and relaxed experience, allowing children to eat at a pace that suited them. The childminder chatted with the children as they enjoyed their lunch. Snacks and lunches provided were healthy and nutritious. We saw from the children's journals they often enjoyed baking activities which promoted various learning opportunities and encouraged independence.

We found the childminder supported the children and families well. Parents told us communication was very good. They said: "Kerry will feedback any relevant information at pick up times and keeps us up to date with what is happening through newsletters and sharing of her policies". Another parent said: "she works with the parents for what's best for the child whose happiness and care is central to her service".

1.3 Play and 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.

Throughout our visit, children were busy and engaged playing together. Children could freely access resources supporting free choice which empowered children to lead their own play.

The children had access to a wide range of quality age and stage appropriate toys and resources to support their play and learning. These included small world, role play, loose parts, games and puzzles. These encouraged children's creativity, problem solving and imagination. Children's numeracy and literacy was promoted with a very good selection of resources available throughout the setting, including mark making materials and real objects such as old phones and keyboards for the children to explore numeracy and literacy.

The childminder was responsive to children's current interests and provided resources to engage children in meaningful play experiences. We saw children play with small world toys for extended periods and the childminder told us that due to the interest they had sourced more of these.

The childminder kept journals in the children's personal plans which documented the children's experiences and photographic descriptions. We could see the wide variety of activities and experiences the children had enjoyed during their time with the childminder. Reference was made to the wellbeing indicators within these which helped recognise progress and achievements for children.

Children had very good opportunities daily to benefit from fresh air, exercise and to explore their local community. The childminder recognised and valued the importance of this taking the children to groups, going on walks to green spaces and visiting the local play areas. This supported children to be healthy, included and involved.

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 warm, welcoming, and homely environment met children's needs and interests very well. Children benefitted from use of the kitchen/dining area, play room and a living room to rest and relax in if needed. These areas were maintained well and allowed children freedom and choice. We saw children moving confidently around the house.

Resources were accessible to children, providing opportunities for them to direct their own play and be independent. Children were also able to make choices and develop their own interests.

Protective measures were in place to minimise risk and support children to be safe. Risk assessments identified potential hazards and helped ensure children's safety whilst out in the community. These could be further developed in line with current best practice supporting children's access to risky play opportunities.

During our visit we witnessed effective infection prevention and control practices. For example: effective handwashing and children being aware of the handwashing routines. We also saw the childminder cleaning at appropriate times throughout the day. Maintaining a hygienic environment contributed to ensuring that children were kept healthy, safe and well.

Importance was placed on being outdoors. As the garden was not used in the winter, the childminder extended children's interests by using community resources. Going to local parks and woods meant children benefitted from exploring the natural environment.

The childminder had a 'ring door bell' at their front door, a device with a built in camera and a two-way talk system. The service had a policy in place which clearly stated the purpose of this, notifying parents of any changes to the use of this device. This contributed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and families.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

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

The childminder's aims and objectives were evident in interactions and relationships developed with children and families. We spoke about updating these with children and families currently accessing her service, taking account of feedback provided in the service questionnaires. This would support children and families to feel included and valued.

The childminder understood the importance of using the views of children and families to inform planning and the development of the service. Parents and children were regularly given questionnaires to gather their views on the service provided. Parents said they liked the outdoor play offered and children liked the toys and snack. They used words such as: "lovely and fun" to describe the childminder.

The childminder had started to evaluate their service using the: 'Quality Framework for the Daycare of Children, Childminding and School Aged Children'. We discussed how including the children's voice within these evaluations would help contribute to the service improvement plan. This would support continued improvement within the service and positive outcomes for children.

Success and achievements were shared with families regularly. The use of technology allowed the childminder to send photos of their children's achievements to ensure parents felt included and involved in their children's milestones. One parent said: "Kerry communicates very well with us personally, whether via messages with a picture of the day's activities to an overview at pickup of how our child has been during the day".

The childminder had a range of policies and procedures in place supporting them to provide a quality service. Parents said policies were continually updated and shared with them, which contributed to them feeling included and well informed.

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.

A calm and caring approach ensured that the childminder was responsive to meeting children's needs. This contributed positively to children's wellbeing and helped them to feel settled, secure, and loved in the childminder's care. The childminder was respectful of children's rights, providing care that was individualised and responsive to each child. She showed genuine love, compassion and care for children. Our discussions highlighted that the childminder was enthusiastic and committed to their role and the families using the service.

The childminder gained a recognised child care qualification (SCQF 7) and was funded by the local authority to provide care for children and families. The childminder was able to discuss how she was supporting children and had a clear understanding of how they develop and learn. One parent said: "Kerry has been a key part of my child's integration into school from nursery - her experience really helped them settle in". Another said: "Kerry takes the time to understand what my child requires and encourages them with the activities on offer to help through their developmental stages".

The childminder made good use of professional development opportunities. They had recently completed training courses including: infection control, paediatric first aid, supporting early language development and understanding and addressing behaviour. The childminder had completed a record of professional development including information about the courses. They were able to discuss how training had supported them to improve outcomes for children. The childminder should now take time to document this learning and the impact it has had on their setting.

The childminder had a good knowledge and understanding of best practice guidance and was able to discuss how they were using this knowledge to improve the setting and outcomes for children. This ensured the childminder was continually improving her practice and the experiences on offer to the children.

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 keep children safe, detailed records should be maintained in relation to children's allergens, the signs and symptoms and actions to be taken.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16
Standard 2: A Safe Environment

This area for improvement was made on 4 April 2017.

Action taken since then

Signs and symptoms were clearly documented in medication plans which ensured the childminder could manage medication effectively. This helped keep children safe and well.

Previous area for improvement 2

To ensure children are supported with healthy eating the childminder should follow NHS guidelines regarding healthy food options for children.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Standard 3: Health and Wellbeing <http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/177298/nhs-setting-the-table-updated-jan-2015.pdf>

This area for improvement was made on 4 April 2017.

Action taken since then

Snacks and lunches provided were healthy and nutritious.

Previous area for improvement 3

The childminder to develop strategies which effectively involve children and parents in regularly assessing and improving the quality of the overall service. This supports improving outcomes for the children and families using the service.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16
Standard 13: Improving the Service; and Standard 14: A Well-managed Service

This area for improvement was made on 4 April 2017.

Action taken since then

The childminder understood the importance of using the views of children and families to inform planning and the development of the service. Parents and children were regularly given questionnaires to gather their views on the service provided.

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?	4 - Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	4 - Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	5 - Very Good

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