

Brown, Marney Child Minding

Sanquhar

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
22 May 2023

Service provided by:
Marney Brown

Service provider number:
SP2003905497

Service no:
CS2003010755

About the service

Marney Brown may care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time up to 16 years of age:

- of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and;
- of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months.

Pamela Crosbie and Adele Brown are employed as assistants.

Where a childminder is working together with an assistant/s they may care for a maximum of 7 children up to 16 years of age:

- of whom no more than 5 are not yet attending primary school and;
- of whom no more than 2 are under 12 months.

Numbers include the children of the childminder's family/household.

The childminding service is located in the village of Sanquhar, Dumfries and Galloway. The service is close to local schools, parks and other amenities. The children have access to a bathroom, open plan kitchen dining area, living room with access to an enclosed rear garden. The children can also access a garden room to the rear of the property.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 12th May 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 2 people using the service on the day of inspection.
- gathered feedback from 3 of their family through questionnaires.
- spoke with the childminder and their assistant.
- observed practice and daily life.
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children experienced care from a warm, nurturing and compassionate childminder which ensured they felt safe, secure and valued.
- Children lead their play and learning experiences, which encouraged their right to choice and independence.
- Children could access a variety of play opportunities indoors, outdoors and in the wider community to support their development.

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 evaluated this key question as very good. We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children.

1.1 Nurturing care and support

Children attending the service on the day of inspection were happy and settled. They had a positive relationship with the childminder who was warm, caring and compassionate in her interactions, this helped the children feel loved and secure. One parent told us "the childminder provides a nurturing environment".

Children were cared for by a childminder who knew them and their families well. Children attending the service had personal plans in place that were up to date and reviewed with families. This ensured children's current health, wellbeing and developmental needs were supported appropriately by the childminder. One parent told us "Very informative and gives regular updates on my child".

Children experienced a positive lunchtime that was relaxed and unhurried. The childminder was responsive to the children's needs. They were able to choose when they wanted to eat and what they wanted to eat. Children were prompted and praised appropriately over the meal time. The childminder supervised the children ensuring their safety.

We sampled the medication policy and consent forms and found these were in line with current good practice guidance. There was no medication stored on the property to audit on the day of inspection. However, the childminder could explain her process and storage of medication. The childminder had a valid first aid certificates.

Children were supported to feel safe and reach their full potential by the childminder who understood the benefits of partnership working with parents and other agencies. The childminder had a good understanding of adverse childhood experiences and the importance of multi-agency working.

1.3 Play and Learning

Children were listened to by the childminder, ensuring their right to lead their care and learning was respected. Children were offered different play opportunities by the childminder who was mindful of their stage of development and interest. Children could independently access a range of toys and resources both indoors and outdoors, which supported them to have fun, develop their skills and imagination through play.

Children's creativity and curiosity was promoted by skilled interactions from the childminder. We saw examples of activities the afterschool children where currently working on related to carnivals. The children's initial interests were extended by the childminder. The children were due to present the information they had researched to their class. This was very good example of a responsive planning approach from the childminder. One parent told us "The childminder takes my sons interests into consideration and plans activities around these to promote development"

There were several visual aids, interactive wall, books and resources displayed around the garden room which supported children to develop their literacy and numeracy.

Children had individual scrap books at the service which included pictures of outings and activities they had been on. Children present on the day of inspection were excited to show us their books and talk through the adventures they had been on. Scrap books, pictures and updates were sent to families via messages to support home links. We observed conversation about new activity ideas between the childminder and families. This supported families to be involved in their children's play and learning experiences.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

We evaluated this key question as very good. We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children.

Children were cared for in an environment that was welcoming, bright and homely. The space was safe and set up to meet the needs of the children attending. Children had space to play together, relax on a sofa or have time to themselves if they wished. Children could lead their play as they could easily access toys and equipment at their level. Natural, open-ended materials and loose parts were available to stimulate children's curiosity and extend their play.

Children had access to a garden room to the rear of the property which had lots of toys and resources available to stimulate play. On the day of inspection children were excited to show us the space and tell us what things they like to play with. One parent told us "My little one enjoys being able to go inside and outside easily and loves going to spend time there".

Children's health and wellbeing was promoted with daily access to the outdoors and garden room. The childminder had plans to further develop the garden space and had linked with the children and their families for ideas and equipment suggestions. This ensured the new area could be sensitively structured and would take account of individual interests, and stages of development. One parent told us "The childminder asked us what interests my son has and provided toys to meet this."

The childminder was aware of her responsibility to maintain a safe environment for children in her care. Risk assessments were in place for many aspects of the service, these should continue to be monitored annually to ensure they remain in line with current guidance. We have suggested the childminder complete a risk assessment specifically for pets within the home.

We sampled accident and incident records and found these were completed appropriately in line with current good practice guidance.

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

We evaluated this key question as very good. We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children.

The childminder engaged well in the inspection process and was open to our suggestions for development.

The childminder was compassionate, knowledgeable, and experienced. She placed children and their families at the heart of her work and was committed to continual improvement of the service.

The childminder had created a booklet for families with aims, objectives and a range of policies and helpful information related to her service. We suggested the complaints information is updated to state 20 day response time in line with current legislation.

The childminder had recently achieved a SVQ 3 qualification and several courses to continue to develop her knowledge and practice. The childminder was able to reflect and discuss the impact of training on her practice and outcomes for children. This ensured children were cared for by a childminder who was trained, competent and skilled in her role.

The childminder had recently created an improvement plan in collaboration with the Early Years Teams which highlighted areas of strength and improvement for the service. Any suggested changes were child centred. This showed us children benefit from a culture of continuous improvement.

Membership with the Scottish Childminding Association supported the childminder to keep up to date with developments in the sector. The childminder was registered with the Care Inspectorate for provider updates and receives information from the local authority Early Years Team.

The childminder knew children and their families well, and had positive relationships with them which supported meeting children's needs. The childminder valued the opinions of those using the service, and sought their views regularly. For example, through formal questionnaires and verbal consultations. We saw examples of this for the outdoor garden renovations that the childminder was planning.

The childminder had valid insurances in place for her service, contributing to a safe environment for children.

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

We evaluated this key question as very good. We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children.

Arrangements were in place to promote continuity of care when assistants were utilised on an occasional basis. The use of assistants was clearly communicated with families and was planned to minimise disruptions to the children's routines. Assistants were introduced to children and families as part of the settling in process which supported positive transitions.

Roles and training were in place for each assistant which was proportionate to the frequency of support they provide the childminder in caring for children within her setting.

Good communication supported information being shared regularly with assistants regarding changes in policies, procedures, legislation, and children's needs through reading personal plans and through face-to-face discussions.

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
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good

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