

Mary Morrison's Childminding Child Minding

Lanark

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
13 July 2023

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2012984158

Service no:
CS2012312402

About the service

Mary Morrison's Childminding is provided from the childminder's home in the residential area of Kirkmuirhall, South Lanarkshire. The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age.

Children are cared for in the downstairs of the property which includes a living room, bathroom, kitchen and playroom with patio doors leading to a rear garden. The service is located close to local parks, amenities and primary schools.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 10 July 2023 between 09:00 and 11:15. Feedback was provided on 13/07/23. 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, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection. In making our evaluations of the service we:

- Spoke with three people using the service and four families
- Spoke with the childminder
- Observed practice and daily life
- Reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children and parents were involved in creating and reviewing personal plans. These were supporting to improve outcomes for children.
- Trusting and positive relationships were formed with families.
- Opportunities to play and learn in the local and wider community supported children to be active and curious in their learning.
- The childminder was committed to delivering a consistent, high-quality experience for children in a home from home environment.

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

Personal plans were in place and contained information such as needs, health and wellbeing information and interests. Discussed with children and families in person on a very regular basis personal plans ensured positive outcomes for children. One parent told us "The childminder offers a fantastic service personalised to each of the children".

The childminder used a responsive approach which meant that children got the right support in a sensitive and compassionate way. A parent told us "My child's talking and social skills are great. That along with toilet training is down to the nurturing experience the childminder provides". Working in a skilled way with families to implement shared strategies the childminder was supporting children as individuals.

Children were protected from harm by the childminder who had a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities and this was reflected in policies. The childminder was due to take part in refresher training. They were confident in recognising and responding appropriately to any concerns.

Mealtimes were relaxed and children's individual dietary needs were well managed. A healthy balance of snacks and meals were offered and children had access to fresh water to remain hydrated. Mealtimes were viewed as valuable opportunity to promote close attachments.

Routines were reflective of individual children's needs and family wishes. The childminder had established good habits and routines and knew children's cues to support them individually. This supported children's rest, sleep and care needs.

There were suitable systems in place to support the wellbeing of children relating to the management of medication, accident and incidents as well as medical and dietary needs.

The rights and voices of children were central to the childminder's approach. They encouraged children to share their likes, thoughts and ideas as part of planning for play and learning. Examples of children's success and achievements were celebrated and shared with families through photos and regular updates. This ensured the childminder was responsive to children's interests and their life experiences.

1.3 Play and learning

Children were offered children a balance of planned and spontaneous high quality play experiences. These were offered through provocations and extending play to support learning. For example, children played a target practice game using a ball and a target. The childminder praised and encouraged children. They then provided opportunities for challenge by raising the height of the target. Children were engaged, excited and motivated.

Children were confident, happy and keen to explore the experiences on offer. A parent told us "My child loves going to the childminder's and looks forward to the days they spend with them".

Interactions and experiences had helped to create a home from home environment where children were comfortable and had a sense of belonging at the service.

Having fun was central to the childminder's planning for play and learning. The childminder had a firm knowledge of how children liked to play and learn and used those cues to give them the best opportunity to be curious and explore their environment. Children told us "I like playing with my friends and feeding the fish" and another said, "My favourite thing is to play with my friend and the baby dolls". One parent told us "The childminder offers a wide variety of experiences".

Trips to learn in the local woodlands, participation in local toddler groups and taking part in Bookbug sessions at the local library were a few of many community experiences for children. Building confidence, developing imagination and learning through nature were an important part of this. This meant that children were able to learn and build bonds within the local and wider community.

How good is our setting?

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.

The environment was clean, bright and well ventilated. Children had access to a playroom, downstairs bathroom, kitchen and garden. The playroom was well organised and provided a homely and welcoming environment to play and relax. A parent told us "I wouldn't change a thing" and another said, "We are lucky to have this childminder".

A variety of policies were updated regularly and shared with families. For example, there were policies based around aims and objectives, child protection, control of infection and food preparation. This supported the childminder to deliver a well-led service.

Parental permission was sought for areas such as photography and trips and outings. Risk assessments considered the environment and activities out with the service. We discussed the importance of continuing to assess risk daily both indoors and outdoors. For example, the safe storage of household equipment. The childminder agreed and actions taken were contributing to keeping children safe.

Children had access to a wide variety of toys and materials. For example, construction toys, books, musical instruments and sensory toys were available and sparked children's curiosity and interests. Children played a guessing game using coloured eggs. The childminder used positive body language and extended this learning by asking questions and making suggestions to challenge thinking. There was lots of fun, smiles, singing and laughing. Children were very engaged and participated with excitement.

The playroom and garden were used well to support children's play and learning. Children moved around areas with ease. They were relaxed, settled and confident around the childminder and in the environment.

A parent told us "The childminder is very reliable, friendly and does everything they can for the children". Children were supported to make creative and imaginative choices in their play and learning. Regular opportunities in the local and wider community such as visits to adventure parks for picnics and woodland walks to collect natural items that could be recycled to create art were welcomed by both children and families.

Appropriate systems were in place to manage information in line with general data protection requirements. The childminder was registered with the Information Commissioner's Office.

How good is our leadership?

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.

The childminder was committed to improvement. Ideas and suggestions to improve the service were gathered through regular discussions with children and parents. Feedback was considered and used to make improvements. This meant children and families were receiving support that was right for them and their needs were being met.

Positive and trusting relationships with families were established and helped to meet children's needs. Parents and children appreciated this and told us "We really value the childminder and all they do for the children" and another told us "The service is beyond expectation". This ensured that the setting reflected the aspirations of families.

There was an established system of two-way communication in place that supported clear parent participation such as daily chats, photos and text messages. This helped the childminder to maintain clear and effective communication as an important part of delivering a high-quality service.

The childminder reviewed and reflected on all aspects of the service using good practice guidance and knowledge from training. For example, training has built the childminder's confidence in supporting the individual needs of children and families.

How good is our staff team?

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.

The childminder was very committed to ongoing training. Further knowledge was gained in areas such as play pedagogy and trauma informed practice. Good practice reflections and up-to-date knowledge was further supported using information shared on the Care Inspectorate Hub website and through a network of local childminders. This ensured experiences for children were enhanced and the service was continuing to improve.

The childminder had a firm knowledge of how children develop and how to support high quality play and learning. They found ongoing learning to be beneficial and told us about the positive impact on children's health and wellbeing outcomes after attending training about learning and playing outdoors. This inspired the childminder to create a weekly time for learning in local woodlands and nature areas.

Interactions with children were engaging, warm and skilled. We observed high quality engagement across the day. The childminder fully understood the importance of nurturing and responsive attachments and interactions. Children engaged with the childminder in fun, laughter, smiles throughout the inspection visit.

A parent told us "The childminder genuinely cares for all the children they look after" and "My child loves the childminder and looks forward to going everyday". The responsive approach used by the childminder ensured children felt at home, loved and valued.

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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