

Angela McCormick Childminder Child Minding

Larkhall

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
9 October 2023

Service provided by:
Angela McCormick

Service provider number:
SP2021000129

Service no:
CS2021000218

About the service

Angela McCormick provides a childminding service from their property in Larkhall, South Lanarkshire. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age.

The service is close to local primary schools, shops, parks and other amenities. The children are cared for in the living room, kitchen/diner and upstairs bathroom.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 9 October 2023 between 06:30 and 09:30. 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 one of their family members
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents

Key messages

- Children experienced warm and kind interactions, helping them to feel safe and secure.
- Mealtimes were a relaxed and unhurried experience.
- Children were able to make choices to support their play.
- Further developments of the new improvement plan would help support improvements within the service.
- The childminder had engaged with professional reading to help increase their knowledge and skills.

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?	4 - Good
How good is our setting?	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
How good is our staff team?	4 - Good

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

How good is our care, play and learning?

4 - Good

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

Quality indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support

Children experienced kind and warm interactions, helping them to feel safe and loved. The childminder knew children well and confidently spoke about their likes, dislikes and interests. They were responsive to children's cues and requests, helping them feel valued. Parents told us they were happy with the care their children received.

Each child had a personal plan in place and these contained important information to help the childminder get to know children and support their needs. The childminder shared their plans to develop personal plans to contain key information to support children in their learning and development. We made an area for improvement at the last inspection and whilst we recognised the childminder had develop their knowledge on personal plans, these had not yet been fully developed. Therefore, we will continue this area for improvement and asses this at the next inspection (see area for improvement 1).

Children experienced unhurried and relaxed breakfast times. The childminder was sensitive to children arriving very early in the morning, offering food options at different times. This meant they could eat when they were ready. Children ate at the table together, helping to develop positive social relationships.

The childminder communicated regularly with parents, helping to ensure important information was shared. This included face-to-face discussions and through technology. Parents commented positively on this and told us they have contact with the childminder frequently.

Whilst the childminder had no medication to administer, we reviewed medication recording systems and policy. We were satisfied these were reflective of current best practice.

Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Toys and materials were available for children to choose from to support their interests and learning. These were stored where children could easily access them and make choices, helping them to lead their own learning. We discussed with the childminder developing more natural materials could contribute to supporting children's curiosity and problem solving. The childminder agreed to do this.

Children enjoyed spending time with the childminder and included them in their play. The childminder engaged well with children, using supportive language and questions to aid their development of numeracy. For example, during an experience using building blocks, the childminder asked 'how many windows will we make on our house?'.

Children attended the service particularly early in the morning and could watch television if they wished to do so. However, the childminder was mindful of limiting screen time and encouraging children to explore toys and materials, supporting their play opportunities.

Areas for improvement

1. To support children's individual needs, the childminder should develop children's personal plans to ensure they are a current reflection of the child. These should include, but not limited to, clear records of how their health and wellbeing needs will be met within the service. These should then be reviewed with parents every six months, or sooner if requested.

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

'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15).

How good is our setting?

4 - Good

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

Quality indicator 2.2: High quality facilities

Children experienced an environment that was warm and welcoming. Soft lightening helped provide a cosy feel early in the morning for children arriving. To support children's emotional wellbeing, soft furnishings offered opportunities for relaxation and comfort.

Overall the environment was clean and tidy. The childminder ensured both front and back doors were locked to ensure children's safety. Hazardous materials were stored in locked cupboard, helping to ensure children were kept safe from harm. For example, cleaning materials, mops and buckets.

Whilst the garden was not in use, the childminder shared plans to further develop this to allow children to use this after the winter. We agreed developments to the garden would be beneficial in keeping children safe and supporting their play opportunities.

Children were confident in the environment and moved around the space with ease. They were able to choose from some toys and materials, supporting their choices and wishes. The childminder had moved the storage of these toys and materials, resulting in children having more opportunities to access these independently.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

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

Quality indicator 3.1: Leadership and improvement are led well

The childminder had developed their ethos to provided a warm and welcoming service that catered to individual needs. This resulted in a positive atmosphere for children to play and learn. The childminder aimed to provide a flexible service, supporting children and their families.

An improvement plan was in place and the childminder had been reflecting on their service. For example, developing spaces to ensure children experienced positive mealtimes. We suggested adding in some information about changes taken place and reflections to evaluate the impact of these improvements.

A number of policies were in place to support the delivery of service. We suggested some minor changes to these to ensure these were reflective of current best practice. The childminder agreed to these and to continue to review policies.

Children were regularly consulted with at the setting. For example, offerings for different toys and materials, food options and opportunities to lead their own play. Moving forward, the childminder should include children and families in supporting improvements and change within the setting. This would contribute to them feeling included and valued.

How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

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

Quality indicator 4.1: Staff skills, knowledge and values

The childminder showed kind, warm and nurturing interactions and had developed positive relationships with children and their families. Children were settled and comfortable in the setting and the childminder was responsive to children's cues for support and cuddles at points during the inspection. This helped children feel safe, secure and loved.

The childminder was responsive during the inspection and welcomed feedback to support continuous improvements and promote good outcomes for children.

The childminder was committed to their role and had carried out some reading of current guidance through the Care Inspectorate Hub. This resulted in some reflections to support improvements. For example, they identified that learning information would be beneficial to add into children's personal plans, linking to their improvement plan. Moving forward, the childminder should continue to reflect on new learning and any impact this has on their practice.

The childminder was aware of their responsibilities as a provider of a care service. For example, maintaining their registration, continued professional development and keeping important records. This helped to support the delivery of the service and ensure children experienced a well managed service.

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 children's individual needs, the childminder should develop children's personal plans to ensure they are a current reflection of the child. These should include, but not limited to, clear records of how their health and wellbeing needs will be met within the service. These should then be reviewed with parents every six months, or sooner if requested.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15).

This area for improvement was made on 22 February 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder had plans to further develop children's personal plans to ensure these were supportive of children's individual needs. Whilst we acknowledge the childminder had engaged with reading to develop their understanding of personal plans, developments were still needed to enhance these. Therefore, we will continue this area for improvement and assess this at the next inspection.

Previous area for improvement 2

To support children's overall health and wellbeing the childminder should now enhance her knowledge of current documents and identify any gaps in practice to support positive outcomes for children. This should include, but not limited to, creating an improvement plan to identify where changes are needed to improve the outcomes for children.

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 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 22 February 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder had engaged with professional reading through the Care Inspectorate Hub. Reading had helped the childminder to develop some understanding to support the delivery of their service. Therefore, this area for improvement is met.

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?	4 - Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	4 - Good
1.3 Play and learning	4 - Good
How good is our setting?	4 - Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	4 - 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?	4 - Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	4 - Good

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