

Vaughan, Helen

Child Minding

Cupar

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
13 February 2024

Service provided by:
Helen Vaughan

Service provider number:
SP2003904430

Service no:
CS2003007456

About the service

Helen Vaughan is registered to provide a service to a maximum of six children aged under 16 years at any one time, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school, of whom no more than one is aged under 12 months.

The service is provided within a residential area of Cupar, Fife. Local amenities include the local school, nursery, shops and parks. The service is delivered from the ground floor of the family home with children accessing the lounge, kitchen, playroom and toilet. Children have access to the enclosed garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection that took place on 13 February 2024, 09:30 to 11:45. 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:

- spent time with one child using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice
- reviewed documents
- gathered feedback about the service from families.

Key messages

- Children benefitted from warm and nurturing interactions supporting them to feel valued, loved and secure.
- The childminder was attuned to their individual development needs.
- Outdoor play experiences provided children with opportunities to be active and explore the world around them.
- Regular communication with parents meant that they were actively involved in their children's care.

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.

Quality Indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support

Children's needs were met through warm and nurturing interactions. The childminder used a calm and reassuring approach to support children's emotional wellbeing. They provided reassurance by ensuring the child present knew who we were. This helped the child feel at ease during our visit. Children felt valued, loved, and secure as a result. A parent said, "My son is settled, content and happy when he comes home."

Children's overall health and wellbeing was supported by consistent care and support that met their individual needs. Personal plans were developed setting out how children's needs would be met. This included information about their interests and choices. They were reviewed regularly so that the childminder could respond quickly, sensitively and compassionately to the changing needs in each child's life. Children received the right care and support at the right times.

Mealtimes were relaxed, unhurried and a sociable experience for children. The childminder was aware of the benefits of spending time engaging children in meaningful conversation as they ate. Children felt respected and included through the meaningful interactions. A parent said, "Helen also provides healthy snacks if he wants more, or to join in with other children such as fruit platters or humous and breadsticks. He is confident enough to tell Helen when he is hungry or wants more."

The childminder had built trusting relationships with families. Daily chats and the use of social media enabled information to be shared. Regular communication with parents meant that they were actively involved in their children's care. As a result, parents felt valued and included.

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

The childminder knew children very well and was attuned to their individual development needs. Experiences were well considered for children's different ages and stages. The childminder worked with families to support children in their progress and development. They agreed routines to ensure they were consistent at home and in the service. Children and families were valued and listened to. A parent said, "Helen works as a partner with my husband and I in ensuring his care is right for him and our family."

The childminder recognised their critical role in supporting children's current interests and curiosities. This promoted their learning and development. A child told us about making a stick man and family with sticks they had gathered on a woodland walk. A parent said, "His development has accelerated much faster since moving from a nursery to Helen; communication, social skills, confidence."

Children were free to lead their own play and learning. This engaged children's imagination and enriched their play experiences. The child present independently chose from a range of resources and toys which linked to their interests. We would encourage the childminder to continue to build on the use of loose parts and authentic resources. This will support children's developing curiosity and problem-solving skills.

Outdoor play experiences provided children with opportunities to be active and explore the world around them. The childminder made good use of the local community for walks and visits to the local park. The child present told us they enjoyed taking the dogs for a walk and meeting other friends when they met another childminder. Children were happy and their physical development was well supported. A parent said, "He is outdoors almost every morning and this is one of his favourite things to do. He is then able to choose what he wants to do in afternoons, including playing with other children. Helen has plenty of resources for the children to choose."

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.

Quality Indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities

Children were cared for in a comfortable and homely environment. The child present played on the floor with a range of toys and resources. Toys and materials were easily accessible including in the play room. This supported children's choices. A cosy couch supported children when they needed to rest and relax. The service provided developmentally appropriate spaces supporting very good quality care and support for children. A parent said, "Home away from home environment."

Children had regular access to fresh air each day. Walking the pet dogs and exploring the outdoors allowed children to have regular energetic play, be curious and investigate the natural world.

The childminder was alert to potential risks in their setting, outdoors and in the local community. This safeguarded, protected and supported children's wellbeing and safety. The childminder identified and minimised potential risks through the use of risk assessment. They had discussed safety when out in the local community. Infection prevention and control measures included cleaning and hand washing routines that were effective. Children were guided and supported to stay safe through discussion and opportunities to take on new challenges. A parent said, "Helen clearly maintains hygiene and cleanliness but he still socialises with plenty of children from school, others Helen cares for, and her partner childminder."

Children's and family's personal information was securely stored. This showed the childminder understood their responsibilities regarding the storage and processing children's personal information.

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.

Quality Indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvement are well led

The childminder was committed to meeting the needs of children and families. They had created a happy and welcoming ethos promoting a positive atmosphere for children to play and learn. Effective communication and trusting relationships supported children and families to feel valued and included in the service.

The childminder had developed the quality assurance systems and processes in place to a very good level. They had moved away from the participation strategy used previously and had begun to use Care Inspectorates, 'A quality framework for day-care of children, childminding and school-aged children.' This supported self-evaluation including reflective practice that improved experiences for children and families. The childminder aimed to continue to develop self-evaluation to highlight the service strengths and to develop a clear plan to support continuous improvement.

The childminder recognised the importance of involving children and families in the development of the service. Children were able to show their experiences through a floor book. The child present named some of the natural resources they had collected when outdoors. Families were encouraged to share their thoughts and views. Children and families helped influence the quality of the service.

The childminder had kept the required records including accident and incident records, medication records and risk assessments. This supported them to meet the legislative and regulatory requirements of operating a registered childminding service, and to keep children safe.

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.

Quality Indicator 4.1: Staff skills, knowledge and values

The childminder's compassionate and responsive approach supported children's wellbeing. They recognised the importance of developing strong relationships with children and families. Children responded positively to the childminder's nurturing approach. Warm attachments helped children feel safe and secure.

The childminder was proactive in keeping up-to-date with current practice. Updates from Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and contact with another childminder had supported reflective practice. Accessing training including First Aid training had ensured the childminder had updated their knowledge and skills to keep children safe and healthy. They spoke confidently about the impact recent training had on experiences and outcomes for children in the setting. Children benefitted from a childminder who had a wide range of knowledge and skills, and was committed to improvement.

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

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.