

Anne Douglas Childminding Child Minding

Ullapool

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
14 March 2024

Service provided by:
Anne Douglas

Service provider number:
SP2022000009

Service no:
CS2022000019

About the service

Anne Douglas childminder, is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and, of whom no more than one is under 12 months. An assistant is employed to assist with this service.

The childminder operates her service from her home in the town of Ullapool. Children have access to a dedicated playroom, kitchen diner, cloakroom and an enclosed garden. The childminder's home is located close to local amenities, parks, natural ponds and woods.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 12 March 2024. Feedback was given on 14 March 2024. 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 three children using the service;
- spoke with the childminder and childminding assistant;
- observed practice and daily life; and
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children benefitted from warm and nurturing approaches to their care, which supported them to feel safe and secure.
- The childminder followed children's interests, supporting their developing language and communication skills through well considered interactions.
- Children experienced a home from home environment, which contributed to them feeling valued.
- The childminder referred to best practice guidance to support her to provide children with quality experiences.
- Effective arrangements were in place to support continuity of care, which provided security for children and their families.

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 quality indicator 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 and their families experienced a friendly and welcoming service. We found that the childminder provided very good care and support for the children, which ensured positive outcomes for them. She had established close bonds with the children and was attentive and responsive to them. We saw warm, kind and nurturing interactions, smiles, praise and encouragement. As a result, children felt safe and secure.

Personal planning information was used effectively. Parents were central to sharing relevant information about their child's routines, like and dislikes. Information was updated when care needs changed, supporting the childminder to provide the care and support children needed at the right time. The childminder was aware of the impact that events in children's lives could have on them, supporting children and families with sensitivity.

Snack and mealtimes were relaxed and calm. The childminder prepared healthy and nutritious food for the children. She recognised these routines as an opportunity to support children to develop lifelong skills, and to build strong relationships. The childminder demonstrated a very good understanding of possible choking risks, preparing food following best practice guidance. Children and the childminder sat together at the dining table, chatting about what they were eating, what they might have for lunch and what they could do in the afternoon. As a result, children benefitted from a positive social experiences.

The childminder recognised the importance of rest and sleep for children's overall wellbeing. She followed family routines, ensuring children had opportunities for rest throughout the day. This contributed to children's safety and emotional security.

Quality indicator 1.3: Play and Learning

Children were having fun as they played together. The childminder offered a range of resources each day that were suitable for the children's stage of development. One child was busy creating structures with building blocks. The childminder supported their developing early numeracy skills, introducing mathematical language such as shape and measurement. We suggested arranging resources so that children could have more choice, and to support their developing independence.

The childminder supported children's developing literacy, language and communication skills through considered interactions in their play. She sang songs, labelled colours and repeated words, supporting children to identify new things, and consolidate their learning. She demonstrated a good understanding of child development, matching conversations to each child's needs. Such as, giving children time to respond and repeating questions and answers.

Planning was informal and responsive to the changing interests and needs of the children attending. The childminder shared updates about children's developmental progress with parents twice a year. We discussed recording children's individual progress in core areas such as literacy and numeracy, and considering next steps for them, to support them to reach their potential.

Children were developing strong connections within the local community. They regularly visited local ponds, parks and groups. This regular access to the wider community enhanced children's play and learning opportunities.

How good is our setting?

4 - Good

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

Children benefitted from a service that was homely, warm and welcoming. The childminder's home was clean, tidy and furnished to a high standard. There was ample space for children to play, rest and explore. Children had access to a dedicated playroom that included a comfortable sofa for resting and enjoying stories alone or together. This demonstrated to children that they were valued.

Resources reflected children's current interests. They had accessed natural and open ended resources when accessing the local area, and used these in play experiences in the setting. Such as collecting pine cones and using these for painting. This contributed to their developing natural curiosities and imagination.

Infection prevention and control measures followed best practice guidance. The childminder ensured that all areas accessed by the children were kept to a very high standard. As a result, children were protected from the possible spread of infection.

The childminder kept professional records for all aspects of her childminding service. Information was stored confidentially in an organised manner. This meant that children and families could be confident that their personal information was stored in line with relevant best practice.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

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

Working in partnership and developing positive relationships with parents and carers was important to the childminder. She recognised the importance of daily communication and information sharing with families, to ensure that she was providing the appropriate care and support to meet the individual needs of the children.

The childminder shared her policies, and aims and objectives with families when they joined the service. This supported families to know what to expect from the childminder. We suggested the childminder now begin to review these, to ensure they were a true reflection of the service offered, and in line with current and best practice.

The childminder valued feedback from children and their families, received both informally and formally. Families were welcomed in to the childminder's home when they dropped off and collected children, which contributed to strong relationships and provided opportunities for information sharing.

The childminder often referred to best practice, and current guidance, for example "My Active World" and "Out to play", refreshing her own knowledge and considering how she could enhance children's experiences. We discussed using the "Quality Framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged children" to further support her self-evaluation, and to identify any areas for improvement.

How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

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

The childminder had a wealth of experience and enjoyed her role. She was warm, kind and caring which ensured children felt valued, loved and secure in the setting. She was nurturing in her approach and had formed strong attachments with the children and their families.

The childminder had arrangements in place to provide continuity of care for children. A named childminding assistant was available to support the childminder, should she be called away unexpectedly, or if an emergency occurred. The assistant was available at short notice if required. They knew children and their families well, which meant families could be confident their children would receive consistency of care.

Both the childminder and assistant had completed recent training in first aid, and demonstrated a good understanding of child protection procedures. This contributed to keeping children safe.

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	5 - Very 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
4.3 Staff deployment	4 - 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.