

Bumble Bees Childminding Child Minding

Dundee

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
20 February 2024

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2004935738

Service no:
CS2004063490

About the service

Bumble Bees Childminding is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of six will be under 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months.

Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The childminder provides the service from their semi-detached house in Ardler, Dundee. The children have access to a dedicated playroom, bathroom, kitchen and enclosed outdoor area. There is a variety of local amenities nearby, including parks, shops and library.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 20 February 2024 between 10:15 and 14:30. One inspector carried out the inspection.

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.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with children and two parents using the service
- spoke with staff and management
- observed practice and children's experiences
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were very happy and at home in the childminder's service. Strong relationships had been formed between the childminder and families. This created a warm and loving environment.
- The setting was a welcoming, homely and child-friendly environment for children.
- Children and families were respected as key contributors to the service, ensuring continual improvements could be made.
- The childminder continually improved their knowledge and skills through professional discussions, reading and researching current good practice guidance. This resulted in positive outcomes for children.

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 experienced warm, caring and loving interactions and as a result, they had formed strong attachments with the childminder. The childminder knew all the children well and had a good knowledge of their home routines and how to fully meet their needs. One parent shared that, "We love how [the childminder] treats our child like they are part of their family and cares for their every need. This is so obvious even at pick up time when they will often choose to go to [nickname for childminder] instead of to us their parents. The activities [the childminder] plans for them and the opportunities they have to develop in all aspects of their wee life are second to none and we couldn't ask for more." It was clear that children and families felt very supported.

Personal plans were in place for all children which contained the required information to support the childminder to meet the needs of all children. These plans were reviewed and updated by parents regularly, in line with current legislation. This ensured that the information held for each child was relevant and up to date. The childminder also spoke with parents regularly to understand the children's individual circumstances. They worked together closely to plan care and support to ensure it benefitted children's wellbeing. As a result, children receive the right support they needed to reach their full potential.

Snack and mealtimes were a happy and enjoyable experience for children. Parents provided packed lunches and snacks that met children's likes and dietary requirements. The childminder sat with the children and used kind and caring interactions to support them to eat safely. Children enjoyed role playing that they were all in a café, creating a fun, social experience. They would also confidently ask the childminder for support when they needed it. This showed that they trusted the childminder and felt safe.

Children requiring personal care, such as nappy changing, received a nurturing experience. The childminder had appropriate equipment, such as a changing mat and personal protective equipment, to ensure children were safe and comfortable. The area was clean and well organised to ensure a high standard of infection prevention and control.

At the time of inspection, no children required medication. We were satisfied that appropriate policies and procedures were in place to safely administer, record and share information with families when needed.

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Toys were appropriate for children's age and stage of development, which provided opportunities for them to lead their play and learning. Children liked that they were able to choose the toys and games from the childminder's extensive collection. The childminder also listened to their wishes and likes, to ensure they could extend their interests. For example, children showed an interest in role modelling with the baby and pram. To support their social and emotional skills, the childminder purchased additional prams which promoted sharing and fairness. This empowered them and enabled them to feel valued and listened to.

All parents strongly agreed that their child was given meaningful, interesting and fun play experiences. They told us, "The play is always varied and provides our child with ample opportunities for development in all areas. The nurture and attention to care is outstanding and this can be witnessed as soon as [the childminder] opens the door and with our child's reaction to seeing them".

The childminder used photographs to capture children's experiences and achievements. These were shared with parents so to include them in their child's day. These showed a wide range of opportunities that extended children's interests and developed their play and learning. One parent told us, "They do arts, crafts drawing and baking and us parents get regular updates of all the fun activities daily".

The childminder used skilled interactions to challenge and motivate children. The childminder was responsive to their cues and recognised when it was best to intervene, or when to provide support that enabled them to achieve on their own. This enabled children to build confidence and resilience.

Children were supported to reach their full potential. The childminder continually discussed children's play and learning with their parents, sharing ideas and achievements. Children's progress was captured informally, through a reflective diary and personal planning. We found that this enabled genuine collaboration between children, parents and the childminder to ensure children thrived.

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 homely environment that was comfortable, welcoming and offered them space to play and relax. The dedicated playroom was well organised and offered them space to play and explore a variety of activities. Child-sized dining table and chairs were used for mealtimes and also provided an area for them to enjoy arts and craft activities. As a result, children were made to feel welcome and valued and at home within the service.

Children's stages of development, interests and curiosities were well considered and reflected in the selection of resources on offer. The toys and resources were reviewed regularly based on children's interests which helped children to be stimulated and engaged in their play. The toys and resources were easily accessible which promoted choice and enabled children to be independent in their play and learning. We discussed how children would benefit from having more opportunities to play with open ended and natural materials to encourage a further sense of wonder.

The property was well maintained indoors and outdoors. The outdoor area at the rear of the property was fully enclosed, secure and offered children a safe space to play and enjoy fresh air. Children had access to a very good range of games and toys that they could incorporate in their play and learning. This enabled children to have fun and explore their interests. Parents told us, "We love that our child accesses outdoor play and learning every single day and in a variety of ways", and "they do so many great activities which include local play groups and visits to the science centre".

Risk assessments ensured that children's safety was promoted as potential risks had been minimised. The childminder had used a risk benefit approach to assess the risks and minimise dangers to children.

Effective infection prevention and control measures were in place. Children were encouraged to wash their hands at key times and effective cleaning procedures meant that the spread of infection was minimised. As a result, the environment was safe and appropriate for children.

Children's personal details were stored and managed safely in line with general data protection requirements. The childminder was registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), which ensured they were fully informed of their responsibilities in protecting children's and family's 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 led well

The aims and objectives of the service were in place to promote a shared vision between the childminder and families. They were carefully considered to best promote high quality care, play and learning to positively inform practice. The childminder reviewed these periodically to ensure they were a true reflection of their service.

Families' views were actively sought to influence change within the setting. They had opportunities to share feedback, for example through regular discussions. This meant families had their views heard and helped them to feel included in the development of the service. This helped them to feel listened to and included.

Effective use of self-evaluation enabled the childminder to identify progress and recognise strengths and areas for improvement. The childminder was committed to continually improving practice through professional development. This included formal training and professional discussions with other childminders. As a result, the childminder demonstrated an ethos of continuous improvement that valued reflective practice.

All parents strongly agreed that they were confident the service was well managed. Parents stated, "[the childminder] is fantastic at what they do, and I go to work knowing that my child is happy and extremely well cared for".

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: Childminder's skills, knowledge and values

Children's wellbeing was well supported through the childminder's kind and nurturing approach. This ensured that children and families felt safe, valued and respected. The childminder had a clear understanding of how children learn and develop. They were kind and patient when interacting with children. This contributed positively to children's overall wellbeing and helped them to feel loved, valued and secure.

Children were very much at the heart of the service. The childminder carefully considered their needs, likes and interests to drive improvement within the service. For example, they kept a reflective diary that enabled them to stay focused on goals and provided opportunities to identify strengths and areas for improvement. This demonstrated a positive, enabling attitude that effectively used changing needs and feedback to improve the service.

The childminder was committed to their own professional development to ensure they provided a high standard of care, play and learning. They maintained records of their training which supported their reflective practice. Training in child protection, first aid enabled them to further enhance their own practice and provide positive care, play and learning experiences. Parents told us, "[the childminder] is caring, kind, warm and empathetic. They go above and beyond for my little one. I couldn't wish for a better childminder for my daughter".

The childminder kept their service up to date through emails and updates from the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA), and the Care Inspectorate. They had also developed positive links with other childminders and this encouraged the sharing of good practice and ideas. This also provided the childminder with a good network of support, which further enhanced high quality practice and experiences for children.

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

The childminder should improve how risks are managed by developing risk assessments for use of the trampoline and outings. They should involve the children in risk assessing where appropriate.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'I am helped to understand the impact and consequences of risky and unsafe behaviour and decisions'. (HSCS 2.25)

This area for improvement was made on 15 August 2018.

Action taken since then

Outings and the trampoline were risk assessed and a policy was in place to ensure safe procedures for children. The childminder told us the use of trampoline was limited and there were plans to remove the item to make better use of the space in the garden. No children were playing on the trampoline at the time of inspection.

This area for improvement has been 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?	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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