

Binnington, Neil Child Minding

Kirkcaldy

Type of inspection:
Announced (short notice)

Completed on:
1 March 2024

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2004919230

Service no:
CS2004063513

About the service

Neil Binnington provides a childminding service from the family home in Kirkcaldy. The service is close to local amenities including green spaces, the local nursery and school and local shops. The service is delivered from the ground floor of the family home and children have access to the lounge, playroom, kitchen/diner and downstairs bathroom. Children also have access to an enclosed front and rear garden.

The service was registered to provide care to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under 12 years, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is aged under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family under 12 years. The parts of the premises not to be used are the bedroom on the ground floor. A maximum of 1 child may be cared for overnight on the premises. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those stated on the registration certificate

In addition, when the childminder is working together with childminder Mrs Tracey Binnington, the service may be provided to a maximum of 12 children at any one time under 12 years.

About the inspection

This was a short notice announced inspection, which took place on 1 March 2024 between 10:15 and 12:30 hours. 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
- 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
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- The two childminders worked well together, supporting children to feel relaxed and secure in their care.
- Children enjoyed warm, nurturing and responsive care, contributing to them feeling safe and secure.
- The service was very organised, ensuring children's information was up to date and met their needs.
- Children were regularly physically active and enjoyed lots of outdoor play and learning experiences within the local community.

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 were supported as individuals as the childminder knew them well due to the range of information gathered during a robust transition into the setting. This enabled children to have their specific needs met and contributed to them feeling relaxed and at home.

Meals and snacks were social occasions for children. They sat together with the childminder at the table enabling conversation and promoting healthy eating. A balanced range of food was provided including soups, fruit, vegetables and treats on special occasions. Healthy packed lunches were promoted by sharing information from current best practice guidance with parents. This contributed to children making healthy choices and supported positive interactions.

To keep children safe and protected, the childminder had a good understanding of child protection. They demonstrated a strong understanding of their role and responsibilities and the need to update training.

Personal journals or notebooks were held for all children. These contained written observations which captured children's play and learning which was supported with photos. The childminder confidently discussed children's current stage of development and how they were supporting individual children. We asked them to ensure these next steps were recorded in journals for all children. Personal plans were updated as information changed and we reminded the childminder that all personal plans must be reviewed at least every six months. Parents should be encouraged to sign and date reviews.

Quality indicator 1.3; Play and learning

Children's opinions and choices were valued. They were currently fully involved in the re-decoration of the playroom and had gone shopping to choose and purchase paint and were involved in some of the re-decoration by adding their handprints to the wall. Other opportunities to be involved included shopping for snacks and toys. This enabled children to feel respected and valued.

Children felt happy and were having fun as they enjoyed varied high quality planned play experiences. The childminder was responsive to their requests, meaning that children's interests were supported and extended. For example, learning to ride their bicycle. We discussed developing some basic planning to capture children's interests or requests, allowing them to have further influence over what happens during their time in the service.

Use of resources within the local and wider environment supported children's connection with the community they lived in. Visits to libraries, museums and other places of historical interest extended children's learning. Regular visits to the woodland and beaches provided some opportunities for children to learn about risk management. This regular contact with the community provided children with a rich and diverse learning environment.

Children enjoyed increased levels of physical activity through daily outdoor play. The childminder made use of their gardens and the large green space opposite their property, along with other spaces in the community for active play. The childminder was committed to outdoor play and learning as part of their values. Loose parts found during play supported children's creativity which was evident through photographs seen. For example, using washed up drift wood as a pirate ship. This supported children's physical confidence, creativity, coordination and improved concentration.

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 enjoyed a homely, clean and inviting environment. They were able to play where they wished and also benefited from a dedicated playroom. Children were comfortable as they moved between the different rooms, leading their own play. The variety of toys, books and other resources were accessible and inviting enabling children to be independent. One parent told us "Excellent setting for my child to develop".

Children's risk of cross infection was reduced as the childminder maintained a clean environment and managed children's illnesses in line with guidance. Checklists were used to support positive practice such as food hygiene and appropriate personal protective equipment used for nappy changes. This supported a hygienic environment and contributed to children remaining healthy.

Children's safety was maintained through a range of measures in place. This included regular fire drills, risk checklists and safety equipment such as the barrier on the decked area. The childminder discussed how they supported children in keeping themselves safe when in the house and in the community. We shared some examples of more robust written risk assessments and asked the childminder to develop these further to make clear the risk and the minimising actions in place.

Children's confidentiality was maintained, as the childminder understood the importance of this and took appropriate steps to keep information secure. We reminded them to check whether they should register with the Information Commissioners 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.

Quality indicator 3.1; Quality assurance and improvement are led well

Regular discussions with parents, including formal opportunities to meet and share children's development strengthened partnership working to meet children's needs. Parents were asked to provide written feedback which was very positive. We advised the childminder to make sure they used parental and children's feedback to support their improvements. Daily chats on drop off and collection, along with use of social media applications enabled positive relationships with families.

A culture of self evaluation was in place as the childminder was very reflective. They spoke about regular daily discussions with the other childminder to discuss practice and possible improvements. Written notes evidenced ongoing self evaluation and use of the 'quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare' document. This supported them to take a closer look at aspects of the service and identify any required action. We advised the childminder to develop their quality assurance floor book to support and evaluate ongoing improvement.

An improvement plan was in place, which was submitted to the local authority as the service was in partnership. This evidenced clear improvement priorities and steps to achieve these. This provided direction for improvement and supported improved outcomes for children.

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.

4.1; Staff skills, knowledge and values

Children enjoyed warm, trusting and nurturing relationships with the childminder. Children were comfortable in their presence and the childminder was respectful of children's rights. Responses and interactions were sensitive and tailored to individual children. This helped children to feel loved and secure.

Skilful interactions from the childminder enabled their learning and development and stimulated their curiosity. Children's strengths and achievements were celebrated, helping them to feel valued.

The childminder remained abreast of developments in childcare through reading and maintaining regular training. They had identified relevant future training to support them in planning provision to meet children's needs. For example, planned training on schema's (repeatable patterns of behaviour) will enable provision of resources to support children's problem solving. The childminder had made use of best practice documents to support their knowledge and understanding. This was having a positive impact on experiences for children supporting positive outcomes. We reminded the childminder to develop a reflective log of learning and development and its impact as part of quality assurance.

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
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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