

McKay, Gillian Child Minding

Newport-on-Tay

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
26 March 2024

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2004915510

Service no:
CS2004058837

About the service

Gillian McKay is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children under the age of 12 years at any one time, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and no more than one is less than 12 months.

Numbers are inclusive of the children of the childminder's family. No overnight care will be provided.

The service is provided from the childminder's home within a residential area of Newport-on-Tay, close to the local school, nursery, shops, parks and other amenities.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 26 March 2024 between 14:30 and 18:00. 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:

- spent time with the five children using the service
- spoke with or received emails from seven family members
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children experienced warm, kind and nurturing interactions.
- Respectful and trusting relationships had been developed with children and families.
- The childminder listened to children and provided activities and experiences that linked to the children's interest, offering challenge and fun.
- Effective communication with parents meant that children's needs were supported and parents felt included in their child's care.
- The childminder made very good use of local, natural spaces, supporting children to be active and healthy.
- The childminder's commitment to their own professional learning was improving 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 attending the service were happy, settled and relaxed in the care of the childminder. Their needs were fully met through nurturing and caring interactions, which meant children felt loved, safe and secure. One parent told us, "Gill is absolutely fabulous. We feel so lucky that our children get to spend time with her in such a positive and caring environment". One child told us, "She's the best childminder in the world". This showed children felt cared for and loved.

Children benefitted from a childminder that knew them very well as individuals. They spoke confidently about children's experiences and their individual next steps. The childminder had developed relationships with children over an extended period of time. One parent said, "They didn't know what they would have done without Gill". One child told us, "Gill is really fun and funny - she makes us happy again if we are sad".

Personal plans were in place for all children. Individual plans were detailed and captured each child's key information, including specific health and wellbeing requirements, family preferences and children's wishes and choices. The plans were completed with parents and carers and routinely reviewed to ensure that they continued to meet the changing needs of children. This meant children received individualised care that was right for them.

Snack time was an unhurried and relaxed social experience. Children had snack outside on a local estate beside a duck pond. They spoke about their day and laughed together. This supported children to form a positive relationship with food and mealtimes.

Systems for recording medication were in place, including parental permissions, storage information and records of administration. Medications were reviewed regularly and stored appropriately. This meant children's individual medical needs were fully considered.

Quality Indicator 1.3 - Play and learning

The childminder had a good understanding of child development, which meant experiences and play were based on children's development and individual learning needs. Children were actively involved in leading their play, ensuring a true child centred approach was embedded within the service.

The childminder used creative approaches to successfully engage children's imagination and enrich their play and learning. Children explored spaces freely, both in the childminder's home and in the wooded area. They were encouraged to be creative and independent. For example, children would decide together when they wanted to return to the childminder's home to play there. As a result, children were happy, interested and excited to come to the childminders.

Outdoor play experiences were provided to children every day which allowed them to be active and explore the world around them. One parent told us, "Gill puts a real emphasis on outdoor play whenever possible". The outdoor play area contained a very good range of resources which offered children opportunities for challenge, creativity and developing independence. The childminder made very good use of the local community for walks and visits to the local estate. As a result, children benefitted from lots of fresh air and physical exercise.

The childminder knew children well. They were meaningfully involved in leading their play and learning through a balance of spontaneous and planned experiences. The childminder had a very good understanding of how the natural environment could be used to enhance children's learning. Children were encouraged to be creative as they made up their own games with their own rules. As a result, children were thriving in the care of the childminder.

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 an environment that was bright, homely and inviting. They had access to the kitchen/dining area, the lounge and a large outdoor area in the front and back of the childminder's house. Large windows and doors allowed for plenty of natural light and ventilation in both spaces. There were dedicated spaces which allowed children to choose from a variety of age-appropriate resources, crafts and books. Children told us one of their favourite things to do was to explore the crafts at the childminder's home.

The childminder understood the positive impact that outdoor play had on children's overall wellbeing. The garden had been thoughtfully planned and adapted to encourage children's interests and development. The childminder highlighted the garden as an improvement priority. They had gathered children's views on how they would like to improve their outdoor space. This showed that children's views and thoughts were respected and listened to. We encouraged the childminder to continue with their plans as this would further enhance children's learning.

Children had regular access to fresh air during daily walks. One child told us, "Gill makes the walk really fun by playing games and walking through Berry's Den after school is great". These experiences respected children's pace as children decided where to explore and for how long. They had fun as they pretended to be statues or made birds nests out of sticks and stones. This allowed children to have regular energetic play, be curious and investigate the natural world.

Regularly reviewed risk assessments were in place, which effectively highlighted hazards and actions to minimise potential risks to children. Children benefitted from real life experiences that supported risk benefit. For example, as they climbed up a large hill in the wooded area or played near the pond. These real life experiences supported children's understanding of risk and how to keep themselves safe.

Effective infection prevention and control measures were mostly in place. Children were encouraged to wash their hands at key times and the home was free from clutter which made it easily cleaned. When children had snack outside, they used hand wipes to clean their hands. We suggested the childminder use running water and soap when children have snack outside. This would further ensure that the risk to infection to children is minimised.

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

Children benefitted from the childminder's positive and nurturing ethos. The childminder's caring approach supported children to make choices and be independent. This reflected the aims of the service, supporting children to feel valued, respected and loved.

The childminder was passionate and committed to the ongoing improvement and development of the service. They focused on ensuring children were provided with the best possible care and support. They worked in partnership with families to meet their individual needs. One parent told us, "Gill is invaluable to us and our children. She is the best childminder we have ever met and feel incredibly lucky that our children go to her". The friendly, professional and open approach the childminder had with children and families supported the development of relationships based on mutual trust and respect.

Successes and achievements were communicated with families, strengthening partnership working that met children's needs. Parents told us, "Gill always shares details of their learning and experiences using a variety of methods. It is great to get such an insight into what they do and how happy they are". The childminder communicated regularly with families and gathered their feedback. This helped the childminder to reflect on children's needs and supported the continued improvement of the service.

The childminder was very reflective. They evaluated the service which supported them to identify strengths and areas for improvement. They regularly gathered children and families' views and used this information to guide the improvement of the service. An improvement plan was in place which was manageable and focused on improving outcomes for children. Their professional approach and commitment to improvement ensured children experienced consistently high quality care, play and learning.

When parents and children were asked what they would like to be improved at the service. They told us that there is nothing that they could think of to improve on. One child said, "I think it's really good how it is". Parents told us, "Gill is a genuinely wonderful childminder who goes above and beyond what any parent would expect". As a result, parents were confident in the high quality of care their children received.

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 quality theme as very good.

Quality Indicator 4.1 – Staff skills, knowledge and values

Children experienced warmth, kindness and compassion in the responsive interactions with the childminder. This enabled them to feel valued and secure as positive relationships had been established and maintained. Smiles and laughter received from children throughout the inspection clearly demonstrated their strong attachments with the childminder.

The childminder understood the importance of strong connections with children and their families. Their kind and nurturing approach ensured that children felt safe and their families were valued and respected.

The experienced childminder had a very good understanding of child development. The rights of the child were promoted and evident in the childminders practice and in their interactions with children. Children were consulted and their views were respected and valued. As a result, children were happy and relaxed as their overall wellbeing was supported and their needs were being met.

The childminder showed a strong commitment to their own professional learning. They regularly attended webinars, training and used best practice guidance to inform their practice. The childminder spoke confidently about the positive impact this work had on experiences and outcomes for children. One parent told us, "Gill is very experienced and this comes out in the outstanding care and attention she delivers for my child". This showed children benefitted from an experienced and knowledgeable childminder.

The childminder had a very good understanding of their professional responsibilities. They worked within their conditions of registration and ensured children's safety by gaining insurance, keeping registers, and maintaining the premises to a high standard.

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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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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