

Holly Carpenter Childminding Child Minding

Dingwall

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
21 March 2024

Service provided by:
Holly Carpenter

Service provider number:
SP2022000175

Service no:
CS2022000263

About the service

Holly Carpenter Childminding, 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.

The childminder operates the service from a detached house, located in the village of Maryburgh. Children have access to an open plan living room, kitchen/diner, bathroom and gardens. The house is located close to local amenities, such as primary schools, park and woodlands.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 20 March 2024, between 11.30am and 1.00pm. Feedback was given on 21 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 registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with two children using the service;
- reviewed feedback received from two families;
- spoke with the childminder;
- observed practice and daily life; and
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- The childminder had established close bonds with the children in her care, contributing to them feeling safe and secure.
- The childminder had a good understanding of how young children develop. As a result, children were supported to reach their potential.
- Effective infection prevention and control measures were in place, reducing the potential risk of infection spreading.
- The childminder valued feedback received from families. As a result families felt involved in the service.
- The childminder was committed to developing her skills, knowledge and understanding, which supported children to have quality care and support.

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 good care and support for children, which ensured positive outcomes for them. She had established close bonds with the children present, 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.

Mealtimes were relaxed and sociable experiences for children. The childminder sat with children during mealtimes, supporting healthy eating habits. This also promoted close attachments and supported early language and communication skills.

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.

Children were safe and protected as a result of the childminder's understanding of what to do if they had concerns about a child's health, safety or wellbeing. There was a policy in place to support families in understanding how the childminder would deal with concerns, reassuring them that action would be taken quickly. This contributed to keeping children safe and healthy.

Quality indicator 1.3: Play and Learning

Children were observed to be happy and enjoying their time with the childminder. They had a variety of opportunities which met their developmental needs, interests, and curiosities. These experiences offered children play and learning which included exploring, being creative, and problem solving. As a result, children were engaged in their play. The childminder should now develop the use of natural resources and loose parts within her indoor play space to support children's enquiry, curiosity and imaginative play experiences.

The childminder demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of how children develop. She provided experiences to support their overall health and wellbeing, and develop their fine and gross motor skills. She assessed children's developing skills, considering how she could support them by adding resources and experiences. This contributed to children reaching their individual potential. One parent commented "My son continuously develops weekly". We suggested developing ways in which she, along with children, could record and reflect on children's learning, celebrating successes and achievements.

Children were developing strong connections within the local community. They regularly visited local ponds and parks. 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.

The childminder's home was clean, tidy and furnished to a high standard. Children had ample space for their needs, which told them that they were valued. They moved confidently throughout the open plan living room and kitchen/diner, accessing toys and resources that were available to them.

The childminder demonstrated a good understanding of the potential risks to children, both within the home, and outside. Effective policies and procedures were in place to reduce potential harm to children, such as regular risk assessments of the environment. The childminder followed policy and procedures around pets in the home. This contributed to keeping children safe, whilst allowing them to safely interact with animals.

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.

The childminder had developed her aims and objectives, and policies, when she started her childminding business. These had been shared with parents when they joined the service, ensuring a shared understanding of how their children would be cared for. We suggested beginning to review these now, to ensure they continued to be a true reflection of the service, and were in line with current guidance. The childminder should involve families in the process to give them further opportunity to be involved, and influence change.

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 valued and took into account any feedback and suggestions offered by parents. The feedback we received from parents supported this.

The childminder often referred to best practice, and current guidance, for example "My Active World", refreshing her own knowledge and considering how she could enhance children's experiences. She had plans to develop and improve the garden to the rear of her home, to provide children with easy access to a natural space. 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 was caring, compassionate and loving towards the children in their care. She had created a space where all children's needs were being supported and interests followed. Good relationships with parents was important to the childminder, parents commented "Holly is very personable, I feel she really goes above and beyond." and "Holly is approachable, friendly, my child is happy and settled."

The childminder reflected on their own skills, knowledge and practice. She made use of good practice documents, national policy, and the UNCRC. Children's rights were central to the service the childminder provided. She had attended training to further enhance her practice and to enable her to support children's learning and development needs. For example, "Play, learning and the brain" which supported her understanding of how young children's brains develop. She had implemented learning from this into the type of experiences she provided for the children in her care. As a result, children were progressing well.

The childminder had a good understanding of her professional responsibilities. She worked within her conditions of registration and ensured children's safety by gaining insurance, keeping registers, and maintaining the premises to a high standard. She was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association, keeping up to date with any changes in best practice through their website. She had also developed a supportive network of childcare professionals. This meant that children were receiving care and support based on best practice and current guidance.

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	4 - 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
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	4 - Good

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