

Angie's Little Angels Child Minding

Wishaw

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
30 May 2024

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2007965252

Service no:
CS2007152271

About the service

The service is registered to provide a childminding service from their home in Wishaw, North Lanarkshire. The service is registered to provide care to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months.

The service is approved to deliver funded Early Learning and Childcare to eligible children of all ages with North Lanarkshire Council.

At the time of the inspection the service was providing care to eight children on a part time basis. On the day of the inspection three children were present.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 30 May 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:

- talked to the children present
- we gathered the views of three family members, of children using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- we observed the childminder's practice and children's experiences
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Play and learning experiences were well planned to meet children's needs, wishes and choices.
- Children had regular access to high quality outdoor play and learning.
- The childminder was extremely committed, well informed and kept up to date with good practice guidance to enhance their practice.
- The childminder's interactions were very caring, affectionate and loving.
- Self evaluation was well established within the setting.
- The childminder was very committed to their continuous professional development.

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?	6 - Excellent
How good is our setting?	6 - Excellent
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?

6 - Excellent

We evaluated this key question as excellent where performance was sector leading with outstandingly high outcomes for children.

Quality indicator 1.1 Nurturing care and support

On arrival one minded child was present, they were extremely settled and confident in childminder's home, they gave the inspector a tour talking about materials and what they enjoyed. This demonstrated they were very familiar with materials and confident showing how they were used and what they had been learning.

The service is registered as a food business and provides the children with healthy and nutritious meals. The minded child told us they like getting fruit for snack. On the day of our visit they had strawberries, blackberries and an apple. They told us they had lunch in a restaurant as they were out on a day trip. The childminder was extremely well informed and provided a well-balanced diet for the children, with an occasion treat. To further extend children's learning around healthy foods, and mealtimes children had access to various health promoting materials, including a well designed imaginary kitchen inside and outside.

Children's wellbeing was fully supported during their time in the service. The childminder was extremely well informed about the importance of providing a nurturing environment. They had an exceptional range of materials to support children understand and express their feelings. One minded child talked to the inspector about the cosy corner and shared they liked to sit in there and read their favourite book. They said it was a space to relax and listen to stories. The childminder shared, sometimes they take a blanket into this area further promoting comfort and security. The childminders interactions with the children were respectful and caring. The childminders home was exceptionally welcoming and created a nurturing and caring environment for children.

Each child's personal preferences and needs were being supported. The childminder gathered meaningful information and kept detailed records to ensure they provided the right care and support to meet their needs. Observations were recorded and used to plan next steps and developmental reviews had been shared with parents. Parents told us they were extremely happy with the quality of the service. One parent commented 'We love the fact that not only do we get verbal updates daily about our child, but we love the use of the app, which means we can get updates "at a glance" about our child's activities and wellbeing whilst we are at work.'

For children going to school the childminder worked closely with the local primary schools, teachers had visited the service and read the child's transition reports. This was excellent practice for a childminding service in relation to supporting individual children wellbeing and what matters to them.

Quality indicator 1.3 Play and learning

Children had access to extremely well-designed space that provided them with excellent access to materials that supported their needs and interests. The children talked to us about the types of things they enjoyed learning. This included learning about the lifecycle of the butterfly and that they had just released theirs and that they were growing sunflowers.

Parents strongly agreed children had exceptionally good play and learning experiences. One parent told us that the most positive aspect about the service was how they 'Support their learning and development. Attending things in the community and meeting friends.'

Early numeracy and literacy were fully embedded into the children's day. They were making extremely good progress using letters and numbers during play. One child shared they liked the scribe boards and talked about their favourite story, showing us the book and related materials. There was a writing trolley fully stocked with materials for all ages and stages. Materials were easily accessible and children enjoyed mark making.

Children had direct access to the secure outdoor space. Children self-selected if they wanted to play inside or outside, the childminder was skilled at supporting this. The outdoor space was inviting and sparked children's imaginations to play and have fun. The children enjoyed the opportunity learning different ways to use their bodies, this included climbing and riding bikes. To further extend children's learning experiences they regularly visited local groups and amenities. One parent shared that this was one of the reasons they choose to use the service.

The childminder's understanding of child development, use of theory and good practice guidance, enabled them to plan the right care, play and learning experiences. The experiences and materials provided children with the opportunities to stimulate, challenge and nurture their rights to play and learn lifelong skills.

How good is our setting?

6 - Excellent

We evaluated this key question as excellent where performance was sector leading with outstandingly high outcomes for children.

Quality indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities

The childminders home was secure, clean and extremely well-designed making exceptional use of the space to create an outstanding environment for children to play and learn. The childminder had appropriate safety measures in place to reduce any possible hazards. For example, all drawers and cupboards in the open plan kitchen had been secured, as a result children could not open them.

Children had access to the lounge area, however mostly they accessed the open plan kitchen area, small cosy room and the outdoor space. The main play space had been extremely well designed. The childminder had considered the children's interests and needs and used these to influence how the space was being used and materials offered. Overall, the play spaces were inviting and inspired the children to play and learn whilst having fun.

The play area had been designed to create different play areas. This allowed children to self-select where and what they wanted to play and learn. Soft furnishings were well placed, children often choose to play on the rugs or cosy up on cushions under blankets. There were tables and chairs for children to access inside and outside. The table covered in artificial grass was popular, this inspired children to play with a variety of small word toys and use their imaginations.

The childminder's home was clean and followed good practice infection prevention and control measures, this included nappy changing. Children showed us where they washed their hands and were able to share they washed their hands to reduce infection.

The childminder was well informed and up to date on protection and safeguarding of children. They had attended various training and development opportunities. They were well versed in protection guidance. This included data protection and ensured all information was stored and disposed of appropriately.

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 service had made good progress using quality framework document to reflect on how well the service was doing. We discussed benefits of recording impact of improvement they had made and updating the how well they were doing sections within their self-evaluation. We advised them to consider training on evaluative writing, this may help them show the progress they had made and impact of their actions. More information to support this process can be found on the Care Inspectorate HUB, under the improvement programmes.

The childminder had embedded other methods to reflect on how well they were doing. This included involvement with the local authority through the partnership. They shared they had helped design and evaluate the childminder's role in providing funded space and supported other likeminded services. In addition, they reflected on their learning from training and development. This helped them to improve and identify future training and reading good practice guidelines kept them up to date with new thinking.

During a discussion and reflection with the childminder about aspects within the service, we did identify an area where further development could be made. This was in relation to recording of agreed plans to support children's specific needs. For example, by having agreed risk assessment detailing safety measures to be followed to reduce possible risk. The childminder agreed to reflect on this and update files, if appropriate.

Children and parents were regularly consulted about the service they received. The childminder recognised the importance of getting feedback and making use of this information to further enhance the quality of the service they provided. Parents did share positive feedback about the opportunities to discuss the service, including daily discussions and the app. One parent commented 'Angie is always welcoming of new thoughts/ ideas. Asks parents questions about anything she could do better or what they'd like to see. Always keeps us updated with any changes also.'

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 Indicators 4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values

The childminder was extremely caring, compassionate and loving towards the children and families using the service past and present. They had created an environment where all children's needs were being supported and their interests followed. Each child was seen as an individual and had a personalised plan to help them reach their potential.

When talking about children and families, the childminder did so with love, respect and kindness. All parents told us they had a strong connection with the childminder. One parent shared 'Angie is the best. She really is a safe and welcoming place for our daughter and is essentially a home away from home.' And another that 'Very friendly and helpful; will go out of her way to help us if needed.'

The childminder's professional development was fully embedded into the services improvement plan. They reflected on their own skills, knowledge and practice using good practice guidance. When they identified the need for further learning they had completed training or professional reading to enhance their practice. We did discuss the benefit of using real life situations to reflect on where, if any, improvements could be made. For example, around the safe guarding of children and risk assessments. The childminder agreed.

The wellbeing indicators and children's rights were embedded throughout the service. The care, play and learning provided high quality care and support that was right for each child. The parents/carers when asked what would make the service better, they all said nothing.

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?	6 - Excellent
1.1 Nurturing care and support	6 - Excellent
1.3 Play and learning	6 - Excellent
How good is our setting?	6 - Excellent
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	6 - Excellent
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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