

Hutchinson, Adelene Child Minding

Greenock

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
31 May 2024

Service provided by:
Adelene Hutchinson

Service provider number:
SP2004941426

Service no:
CS2004083172

About the service

Adelene Hutchinson is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than 6 are under 12 years, of whom no more than 3 are of an age not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months.

When the childminder is working with an assistant the following condition shall apply: To provide a care service to a maximum of 9 children at any one time under 16 years of age, of whom no more than 6 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 2 shall be under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family. At the time of our inspection, 14 children were registered and Nick Hutchinson was employed as an assistant.

The service is provided from the childminder's family home in Greenock, Inverclyde. The areas used to provide the service included the childminder's family home, enclosed garden and outdoor cabin, known as the 'shed'. The shed provided one playroom, a kitchen, toilet, cloakroom and resources. The service is close to local shops, parks and amenities.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 31 May 2024 between 11:30 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 and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke with children using the service
- received five completed questionnaires
- spoke with the childminder and assistant
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- The childminder was warm, kind and caring towards children which meant that they felt safe and secure in the care provided.
- The childminder and assistant had developed good relationships with children and families and worked in partnership with them to support their children's health, care and development.
- Children were happy and settled in the service.
- Children benefited from various play and learning opportunities indoors and outdoors suitable to their age and stage of development.
- The childminder and assistant demonstrated a positive commitment to improving their service; they regularly sought the views of the children and families.

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

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|--|---------------|
| 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.

The childminder's deep understanding of children's needs was evident in the strong bonds they had formed with the children. They created an environment that was a second home for the children, fostering positive interactions that made them feel valued, loved, and secure. This understanding was confirmed by parents and carers who believed they had built good relationships with the childminder. Their comments included, "The welcoming nature of Adelene, the environment and the general atmosphere that exists there is excellent. It is a little haven for children to develop" and "Adelene's is home from home for our daughter. I have a good relationship with Adelene, and she does her best for our girl and treats her like her own children."

The childminder, recognising the importance of supervised mealtimes, has taken on the crucial responsibility of ensuring the children's safety during these periods. They have also understood the value of a relaxed, unhurried mealtime as a positive social experience and a prime opportunity for fostering close attachments, demonstrating their care for the children's overall wellbeing.

The childminder's proactive approach to supporting children's overall wellbeing was evident through the effective use of personal planning, which incorporated the views of parents and carers. They actively utilised this information and insights shared informally by families to support children's routines. The regular updates of personal plans with families allowed the childminder to adapt to changes in children's lives and foster strong relationships, making the parents and carers feel involved and valued in the care process.

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

The childminder's unwavering commitment to safeguarding children's welfare and wellbeing was evident. They had recently participated in a safeguarding course with the local authority to clarify their role and responsibilities for raising any concerns about children. The childminder and assistant shared their comprehensive child protection policy with the parents and carers, reinforcing their dedication to ensuring the safety of their children.

Quality indicator 1.3: Play and Learning.

During the inspection, the children were observed engaging in outdoor activities in the garden, taking the initiative in their play and learning. They were provided various activities that catered to their interests, focusing on small-world toys that stimulated their imagination. Parents and carers were appreciative of the play and learning their children receive at the service, commenting, "The child directed learning is great", "It is always good fun and interesting", and "My daughter loves playing outside in the garden and there are various activities to do."

The childminder played a pivotal role in facilitating these activities. They actively encouraged toy sharing, promoted good manners, and fostered respect among the children. This guidance created a positive environment, contributing to the children's happiness, confidence, and social interactions.

The childminder's effective utilisation of the local community significantly enriched children's experiences. This included regular visits to the cinema, theatre, woodland walks, craft club on Tuesdays, and visits to the Esplanade to observe and learn about the swans nesting. One parent acknowledged this, stating, "xxxx loves being out and about. I love how much Adelene has the kids out and about." This strong integration with the community improved children's opportunities for play and learning and fostered strong connections within their local community.

Children's journals were used to record their individual learning. Photographs of children's play experiences were also shared with families. This was in addition to the childminder's informal conversations with parents and carers at handovers, with one commenting, "We always have a chat in the morning how xxxx is and have a longer chat at night what they have got up to during the day and what activities they have." This supported the childminder in planning possible next steps for play and learning opportunities, highlighted the children's progress, and allowed parents and carers to speak to their children about their day, what they had been doing, and what they had learned. This meant that children were progressing well as they were encouraged to achieve their potential and made parents and carers feel more connected and informed.

Floorbooks were also used to record generic play and learning experiences, allowing children to revisit and celebrate their learning. Reflect on their experiences and share successes and achievements with their friends.

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.

The childminder provided a homely environment where children were comfortable and at ease. The hygienic and well cared for home was organised with ample space for children to play and relax, giving a clear message to children that they mattered. The childminder's approach to childcare included engaging experiences and outdoor play, which children enjoyed. One parent agreed, commenting, "At Adelene's, we loved the home environment and the learning environment. We were lucky enough to find Adelene in December 2021 for our older daughter who has now moved on to nursery. When we had our 2nd daughter, we just knew she would thrive and develop like her sister if she could go to Adelene."

The outdoor play area, located at the back of the property, was a haven for the children. It was fully enclosed and secure, providing a safe space for the children to play and enjoy fresh air. This space was available for active, physical outdoor play throughout the year. The children also had regular access to fresh air and exercise as they explored and used outdoor spaces in the local community. These outdoor experiences were fun and educational, teaching the children about the benefits of an active lifestyle that promotes their health and wellbeing.

The outdoor cabin was used for indoor play experiences and provided facilities for children to have personal care that respected their privacy and dignity. We observed children singing while washing their hands before having lunch and after using the toilet, and the children were confident in telling us the reason for doing so to prevent any germs.

The property was well maintained indoors and outdoors. Risk assessments ensured that children's safety was promoted as potential risks had been minimised. Infection prevention and control measures were in place. We discussed how having porous materials in lidded boxes would further minimise the spread of infection, which the childminder agreed to source. As a result, we concluded that children were cared for in a safe and secure environment where their wellbeing was prioritised.

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 childminder's commitment to the service's vision, values, and aims of having nurturing and supportive interactions in the setting was witnessed during the inspection. The priority of providing a safe and secure home-from-home environment was evident. They had fostered an atmosphere of inclusivity, where children and families felt welcomed and could build relationships. The service was responsive to families' questions or concerns, further emphasising its commitment to their wellbeing.

It was clear from parents and carers responses to our survey that they were pleased with the overall quality of the service and transparent communication from the childminder, which ensured continuity in their children's care. Parents and carers also believed their families were involved in a meaningful way to help develop the service. As a result, positive, trusting relationships had been established with children and families, and the childminder knew them well. Their views were actively sought through informal discussions and questionnaires. Children's and their family's ideas and views were used to influence the care provided and were considered when planning improvements within the service. This provided children and families with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development of the service, making them feel included and heard.

The childminder's reflective practice, which was evident in their continuous efforts to evaluate the service, inspires confidence in its future development. Their use of a survey for parents and carers to cater to the needs of their individual children and their alignment with the GIRFEC agenda wellbeing indicators to identify strengths and development needs demonstrate the childminder's understanding and commitment to continual improvement. This is a strong indicator of the childminding service's dedication to providing the best possible care for children.

An improvement plan had been developed, which included a focus on promoting children's health, play, and learning. This encompassed opportunities for children to learn about healthy lifestyles through engaging cooking experiences and the provision of toothbrushing in the service. A recent visit from Child Smile specifically provided training on oral health and hygiene, which further supported the childminder's training and opportunities for children to develop their oral hygiene skills.

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 4.3: Staff deployment.

The childminder and assistant were professional and welcoming. This created a warm and welcoming ethos for the setting that families greatly appreciated, with one commenting, "It feels like going to my family's house."

The childminder assistant was included in the registration service conditions. The childminder had undertaken comprehensive safety checks for the assistant, including registering them with the Protection of Vulnerable Group Scheme (PVG). These robust measures were in place to provide a strong sense of security to the parents and carers, assuring them of the utmost safety of their children.

The childminder and assistant demonstrated a strong collaborative approach during the inspection. While the assistant was not directly providing care, they provided valuable feedback about their role. They expressed feeling supported in various aspects of the service. The childminder actively involved the assistant in the self-evaluation of the service and sought their opinion on service improvements. This inclusive and collaborative approach significantly enhanced the setting's capacity to deliver positive outcomes for children and families.

Having an assistant meant a contingency plan existed should an emergency occur. This lessened the likelihood of disrupting children's routines, care, and support as they would be cared for by a known and trusted adult.

The childminder demonstrated a high level of professionalism by diligently complying with relevant legislation. They had suitable insurance in place for public liability and transporting children in their car. The childminder also had well-defined policies and procedures, which they actively shared with parents and carers. This proactive communication ensured that parents and carers were fully informed and included in the service provided, further highlighting the childminder's transparency and professionalism.

The childminder, who has completed up-to-date first aid and child protection training, and the assistant, who is in the process of completing the same training, demonstrated their commitment to children's safety. The childminder shared the knowledge learned with the assistant, ensuring both were equipped to handle emergencies effectively. The assistant agreed that first-hand training in first aid would further strengthen and improve their knowledge and keep children safe.

The childminder and the assistant confirmed that they had daily discussions about the needs of each child, future improvements, and the overall quality of the service. This regular and open communication demonstrated their deep understanding of the individual needs of children and families and reassured parents and carers about the personalised and attentive care provided. Their responsive, nurturing, kind, and caring interactions further supported the very good outcomes observed.

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

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| 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 |
| 4.3 Staff deployment | 5 - Very Good |

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