

Lynne Johnston Child Minding

Aberdeen

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
20 June 2024

Service provided by:
Lynne Johnston

Service provider number:
SP2022000223

Service no:
CS2022000339

About the service

Lynne Johnston provides a childminding service from their property in a quiet residential area of Portlethen. The childminder may care for a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than six are under 12 years, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and, of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers include the children of the childminder's family/ household. The service is close to local primary school, parks and other local amenities. Children have access to a dedicated playroom, dining kitchen, downstairs bathroom and a fully enclosed rear garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 20 June 2024 between 11:30 and 15:00. 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 and information submitted by the service.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- gathered feedback about the service from families
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and children's experiences
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were happy, settled and relaxed in the childminder's care. The childminder was responsive to children, providing caring interactions.
- Children were able to direct their own play and activities, choosing and freely accessing appropriate materials and resources to support their play and learning.
- Trusting and positive relationships were formed with families and effective communication supported families to be involved in their child's care.
- A range of mandatory training courses and other professional development opportunities had been accessed, supporting the childminder to develop their skills and knowledge.
- The childminder should continue to carry out regular self-evaluation that includes gathering the views of children and families to support improvements.

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?	4 - 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 experienced kind, caring and nurturing support from the childminder who knew them very well. They were happy, safe and secure in the childminder's home and were having fun with their peers. Strong attachments had been formed with the children and they responded to the childminder, seeking comfort and reassurances when needed. This contributed to children feeling safe, secure and well supported.

The childminder knew children very well and personal plans reflected children's interest, preferences and stages of development. This meant that children's individual needs were supported, and the childminder was able to provide the appropriate care and support. Regular reviews of the plans meant that families could share information about children's health, safety and welfare needs. A parent told us, "Communication is strong and relevant information is always passed on."

Children enjoyed relaxed and unhurried mealtimes. Parents provided food for children. The childminder encouraged children to try new foods provided by parents and offered an alternative to a child who didn't like theirs, ensuring all children had enough to eat. The childminder told us how older children were involved in the preparation of snacks and we discussed how this could be further extended to the lunchtime experience for younger children.

Children were well supported in their personal care. The childminder was kind in their interactions and children's dignity and privacy was respected. Children's sleep routines were well considered, and the childminder had a very good knowledge of safe sleep practices, helping to ensure children were safe and healthy.

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children experienced a balance of planned and spontaneous play. The childminder was responsive to children's interests and planned experiences supporting their interests. Children were supported to develop their skills in language, literacy, and numeracy. Opportunities were woven into everyday experiences such as reading stories, singing songs, use of MAKATON and modelling language throughout the day.

The childminder had begun to record significant observations of children's development and progress. This enabled the childminder to plan experiences relevant to individual stages of development and interests. As a result, children were supported to succeed. Children's achievements and photographs of their experiences were shared with families. This provided an opportunity for them to be involved in their child's learning.

Children's opportunities were enhanced through the strong community connections. For example, attending local groups, use of playparks, soft play, Lego club, craft sessions and Duthie Park ranger sessions supported children to be included and created a sense of belonging.

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 had created a warm and welcoming environment for children and families. The setting was well-furnished, comfortable and homely. Children were cared for in a visibly clean and well organised space. They were confident in moving around the spaces and were familiar with the layout, knowing where to resources and equipment. Children's comfort had been considered and soft furnishings offered children opportunities to be comfortable and relax. Overall, children had the space they needed in a relaxing home from home environment.

Children's stages of development, interests and curiosities were well considered and reflected in the selection of resources on offer. For example, shape sorters, garage and cars, mark making materials and a range of books and games. The toys and resources were easily accessible which promoted choice and enabled children to be independent in their play and learning. A varied range of resources ensured that children had access to a variety of learning experiences. Children were seen to be utilising these freely leading their play.

Children benefitted from a large, fully enclosed garden area offering a range of different types of play, for example, ride on toys, mud kitchen and physical games. The childminder understood and valued the importance of outdoor play and explained children use the garden daily. Parents told us, "Playing in the garden devising own games, play parks, agility course at school, bus trips into Aberdeen on some holiday days to do activities there," and "They love the park and playing in the garden with various toys."

Thorough, well considered benefit risk assessments helped ensure children were safe from potential harm and danger. The childminder was alert to potential risks in their setting, outdoors, and in the local community. This protected and supported children's wellbeing and safety. Infection prevention and control measures included cleaning, effective use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and hand washing routines that were effective.

Children's personal information was stored securely ensuring families privacy and confidentiality was respected.

How good is our leadership?**4 - Good**

We evaluated this key question as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children/people and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality Indicator 3.1: Quality Assurances and Improvements are well led

The aims and objectives of the service were in place to promote a shared vision between the childminder and families. These were shared with families as children enter the service. When reviewing these, we

suggested the childminder consults with children and families using the service, supporting them to feel valued and included.

Families were welcomed into the home and had daily opportunities for discussions, which helped build meaningful relationships. Children benefitted from lots of opportunities to offer feedback and suggestions which were used to shape the service. A parent told us, "We are always able to go into the house at pick-up have the opportunity then to ask any questions and get feedback about the day." Whilst another commented, "Lynne asks us for feedback on her service."

The childminder had reflected on their practice, identifying what is going well and areas for improvement. They had documented a range of plans for improvement. We discussed how these could be broken down and prioritised, supporting meaningful and targeted change, supporting positive change on 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.

Quality Indicator 4.1: Staff skills, knowledge and values

The childminder was nurturing, kind and compassionate. They knew each family and their circumstances well and described positive relationships. Children were secure in the childminder's care and were seen to be relaxed and chatty. Interactions were loving and supported children to develop thinking skills. Fun and kindness were at the heart of the service provided to the children and families. A child commented, "Lynne is nice. Lynne is helpful if I'm upset or worried."

The childminder was skilled at building relationships with families. They recognised and valued working in partnership with parents. Their approachable manner enabled information to be shared on a daily basis.

The childminder's knowledge and skills supported high quality experiences for children. The childminder was proactive in keeping up to date with best practice. They had attended a range of training courses and a childcare qualification. Evaluations of learning from training would support them to revisit and reflect on their practice and outcomes for children.

Children benefitted from good supervision which ensured they were always safe.

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?	4 - Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	4 - Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	5 - Very Good

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