

Gough, Grace Child Minding

Glasgow

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
8 July 2024

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2009976566

Service no:
CS2009235494

About the service

Grace Gough Childminding service is provided from the childminder's home in the south side area of Glasgow. The service is close to local schools, nurseries, shops, parks, woodland, public transport links and other amenities. The children have access to the main dining room space and enclosed back garden. The room is used to support various activities including mealtimes, rest, sleep time, and play and learning. Children had access to the toilet area to support their personal care. The childminder is registered to 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 of an age to attend primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. At the time of inspection, there was one minded child being cared for.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 8 July 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:

- Spoke with children using the service
- spoke with families of children using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- reviewed one completed questionnaire
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were happy and having fun.
- The childminder had developed positive relationships with children and families.
- Children benefited from a wide range of resources that supported their development.
- Children took part in rich play opportunities beyond the setting in their community.
- The childminder was using people's views and best practice guidance to self-evaluate the service and plan improvements.
- Children benefited from a competent skilled childminder.
- Parental feedback about the service was highly complimentary of the childminders nurturing and individualised approach used to support 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.

The childminder was warm, caring and nurturing in their approach. Strong relationships had been established between children, families and the childminder. Children were cared for with compassion and in line with their personal preferences recorded within their personal plans. Parents who provided feedback told us "you can tell she knows my child well, and she is like an extension of our family".

The child benefited from caring and sensitive interactions that supported their rights, dignity and wellbeing. For example, the childminder asked the child for consent prior to wiping their nose, and explained to the child how this would make them feel more comfortable.

Families were providing their own snacks for their children. The childminder spoke about the importance of healthy eating with parents before they started the service. A healthy eating policy was in place and was shared with parents. This meant snacks and meals provided were nutritious for children, supporting their health. The childminder sat and chatted with the minded child as they ate their snacks. This supported the mealtimes to be safe, social, and nurturing for children.

The childminder had a safe sleep policy in place and had taken part in training to support safe sleep routines for children. Children's sleep routines were recorded within their personal plans. This meant children could sleep safely, in line with their needs and parental wishes.

The childminder had a medication policy in place, and a good understanding of the best practice guidance. We were satisfied medication would be administered and stored safely if a child required this.

Children benefited from robust personal planning. Each child had a personal plan in place that recorded the important information about the care and support they needed. They were created and updated with families regularly. Parents who provided feedback said, "I am asked regularly about updates to my child's likes, dislikes, development, eating, and sleep routines". This enabled the childminder to respond quickly, sensitively and compassionately to changes in children's life's.

Quality indicator: 1.3 Play and learning.

The child was having fun while spending time taking part in high quality learning experiences. The childminder was skilled in observing children at play and planned experiences that supported their development linked to their current interest. For example, the child who was attending, had shown an interest in cars and animals. The childminder had displayed a range of animal and car toys attractively. This supported the child to explore and be curious.

The childminder skilfully gathered observations of children at play, and took photographs and videos. These were then shared with families daily through an online messaging platform. The childminder also prepared a six-monthly report on children's progress and shared this with families. We concluded children were being supported through high quality observations and interactions from a skilled childminder with a very good understanding of child development.

Children had rich play and learning opportunities in their local community. We reviewed evidence that children went to local parks, toddler groups, museums, the library, and sometimes went further afield to places, such as the beach. Parents who provided feedback commented positively on the opportunities children had in their local community. One parent said "the childminder makes a conscious effort to get outside every day and has waterproofs, so weather is not a barrier. Takes the children on walks, to various parks, the museum of rural life and to the beach." This supported children's high quality play and learning beyond the setting and developed positive community links.

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 home was well furnished, clean and had plenty of natural light and ventilation. Children had access to the main play space and a well-resourced outdoor area, this allowed plenty of room to play, learn, relax and rest.

The childminder had gathered a wide range of resources that supported children's language, literacy and imagination. Children accessed a wide range of toys from a large storage area next to the main play space. The childminder consulted with the child during the session to plan the experiences and resources on offer. For example, the childminder and child were planning an outing to the park. The childminder asked the child what they would like to play with at the park, and they chose to pack some bubbles for the trip. This meant children benefited from access to a wide range of resources that supported their interests and developed their skills.

Risk assessments the childminder had in place were updated regularly to detail the hazards and reflect the mitigations and measures in place to minimise risk to children. Parents told us their children were safe whilst in the setting. The childminder understood children should always be accounted for while in the service, in the outdoor garden, and on trips and outings. Through discussion with the childminder, it was clear that they were aware of a range of ways to keep children safe. We concluded the environment was effectively maintained and risk assessed so the children could enjoy challenging fun play experiences safely.

The home was clean and well maintained to prevent the potential spread of infection. We observed children and the childminder practicing effective hand washing during our inspection. A policy was in place to support effective infection prevention and control. This was minimising any spread of infection and keeping children well and safe.

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 shared the aims and objectives of the service with families prior to them starting. There was a range of policies in place that supported the childminder to deliver high quality care play and learning. The childminder was reflective of their practice and reviewed policies regularly to ensure they were in line with best practice guidance and appropriate to the needs of the service. We concluded the childminder promoted a shared vision for the service that reflected the needs of families and children using the service.

Parents who provided feedback told us they were meaningfully involved in the life of the setting. The childminder consulted with children and families both informally and formally to gather people's views. The childminder shared the successes and achievements of the service. People's views and the achievements were used to show how the service was meeting children and families needs, and was used to inform future improvements.

The childminder was using current best practice tool kits to self-evaluate and plan improvements to the service. A meaningful self-evaluation plan had been recorded. The plan highlighted areas of practice that were going well, what evidence was in place to support this, and what improvements had been identified. For example, the childminder had sourced training that further enhanced their skills to plan and support children through robust personal planning. We concluded the childminder was skilfully using self-evaluation that placed high quality care play and learning at the heart of the improvement planning.

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 had developed close, caring relationships with the children and very positive relationships with parents and carers. Parents told us that they were happy with the care and support offered to their children. We observed children enjoying their time with the childminder. We concluded the childminder was supporting children's wellbeing and offering supportive and compassionate care giving.

The childminder demonstrated she had the appropriate skills and knowledge to support the children attending. Regular updates and valuable information were shared with parents. One parent said "I trust her completely with my child and her kind nurturing nature means my child is settled there. She has strong communication skills and keeps me updated so I feel very involved in the days my child is with her." We concluded parents were well informed and felt confident that the childminder fully understood their child's individual needs and characteristics.

The childminder told us they attended regular catch ups with the other childminders locally. They met to share any good practice that they had seen and discussed any new best practice updates from the Care Inspectorate. The childminder told us this increased their professional knowledge of current best practice for childminders and enabled them to offer a better service to the families attending the service.

The childminder told us they were committed to providing a quality service to families. The childminder kept up to date with changing guidance by taking part in regular training and accessing useful websites such as the Care Inspectorate hub and Scottish Childminding Association dashboard. This supported the childminder to be appropriately skilled and trained and offer a high-quality service that supported very good outcomes for children.

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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