

Reid, Morven Child Minding

Inverness

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
23 July 2024

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2006961293

Service no:
CS2006134480

About the service

Morven Reid is registered to provide a childminding service to care for 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. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

Where the childminder is working together with an assistant, they may care for a maximum of 12 children up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than six are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than two are under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the children of the childminder's family. Overnight care can be provided.

The service operates from the childminder's home in a quiet residential area on the outskirts of Inverness. She makes use of the kitchen/dining room, large lounge and toilet. There is also a large fully enclosed garden which is used on a daily basis. The childminder also makes use of various local facilities including parks and walks to offer the children the opportunity to be healthy, active and have access to fresh air and exercise.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Tuesday 23 July 2024 between 10:30 and 12:30. 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 the child attending the service.
- Reviewed feedback from parents.
- Spoke with the childminder.
- Observed practice and daily life.
- Reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were very happy, relaxed and enjoyed spending time in the care of the childminder.
- Children experienced nurturing care and support from a childminder who knew them very well.
- The childminder had established extremely strong working relationships with families.
- There was a good range of resources, including loose parts and open ended resources, which the children could independently access.
- The childminder had a very good knowledge and understanding of child development and caring for children's individual needs, especially children with additional support needs.
- The childminder should continue to carry out regular self evaluation and improvement planning processes.

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

Quality indicator 1.1 Nurturing care and support

There was one child present on the day of the inspection who was extremely happy and relaxed in the care of the childminder and her family. They had secure attachments with the childminder who was very responsive to their individual needs. Children experienced warm, caring and nurturing approaches from her which supported them to feel safe, secure and loved. Warm, caring and loving relationships provided support to children, helping them to build resilience and promote their emotional wellbeing. This was highlighted as a strength by parents who told us about the positive relationships developed between the childminder and their children. The service was described as a 'home from home' by two parents where their children felt happy and relaxed.

During the visit the childminder was very attentive and responsive to the needs of the child. We saw lots of warm and nurturing interactions, chatting, smiles, praise and encouragement. From our observations and discussions with the childminder, it was clear that she knew each of the children in her care extremely well which ensured that she was able to respond to their individual care needs. The childminder had put in place personal plans for each child, which contained relevant background information and details of the child's routine which supported continuity and consistency of care. The plans were completed with parents and carers and routinely reviewed to ensure that they continued to meet the changing needs of the children.

Working in partnership with parents was a priority for the childminder. She understood the importance of ensuring that children experienced regular routines and consistent care. Having close working relationships with the parents allowed for open communication and information sharing. Comments from all the parents supported this; 'really great relationship. Great communication' and 'Morven and I communicate well, share care plans when they are updated'. As well as offering informal feedback at drop off and pick up times each day, she also made use of photographs and messaging services to keep in very regular contact with families.

The childminder was very aware of her responsibility to safeguard children. She had completed relevant training and had a good understanding of child protection. We were confident that the childminder was committed to her role and responsibilities in keeping children safe from harm.

Quality indicator 1.3 Play and learning

Children had fun taking part in a wide range of play experiences which reflected their interests and stage of development. The childminder offered children opportunities for both planned experiences and spontaneous play activities. These enriched children's play and learning, stimulated their natural curiosity and encouraged children to be creative, learn about risk and problem solve. The childminder was responsive to children, encouraging and extending their imagination and learning. Sensitive and skilled interactions were used to extend children's thinking and learning.

Children were free to lead their own play and learning. They were able to independently choose from a range of resources and toys which were age and stage appropriate.

There was a range of natural and loose parts that can develop children's curiosity, creativity and imagination. One parent commented; 'it is always child led and my child has the freedom to choose what he wants to do'.

The childminder was playful in her interactions with the minded child and there was lots of chatter and laughter as they spoke about previous activities the child had taken part in. The childminder showed genuine interest in the child's art work and offered appropriate supervision during a baking activity.

Children benefitted from a childminder who displayed a very good knowledge and understanding of child development and who was able to support children's progression and development. The childminder was using their knowledge of individual children and their developmental needs to plan interesting and meaningful play experiences.

The childminder recognised the importance of outdoor play experiences. There was a large garden which contained a range of resources which offered children opportunities for challenge, creativity, developing independence and imagination. Children spent time outdoors every day which allowed them to be active and explore the world around them. The childminder also made good use of the local community for walks and visits to the local woodland, which provided children to have access to fresh air and physical exercise.

Parents strongly appreciated the opportunities for their children to take part in outdoor play and learning. Parental feedback in relation to the outdoor activities their children had enjoyed taking part in at the childminder's included; 'The garden is large with a trampoline, swings and seating' and 'Morven regularly takes him to parks and on walks'.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

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

Quality indicator 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

Children benefited from a safe, welcoming and homely environment with ample space, light and ventilation. This supported children to feel safe and secure. The children enjoyed the freedom to play and explore their surroundings. The environment offered children a fun and enjoyable experience and supported positive outcomes.

Children's stages of development, interests and curiosities were well considered and reflected in the selection of resources available. The childminder recognised the benefits of having open ended and natural resources to extend the children's learning through play and had been introducing more both outdoors and indoors. Children were able to direct their own play and activities, choosing and freely accessing appropriate and interesting resources to support their learning. Parents all agreed that their children had the freedom to choose what they wanted to do and were offered the appropriate levels of support and supervision by the childminder.

Being outdoors was popular with all the children who attended. Children had direct access to the large garden where they could engage with a range of resources. The childminder also made good use of the surrounding area for walks and visits to the woods to allow the children to explore and investigate their local environment and community. The childminder recognised the benefits of supporting children to safely engage in play to push their own boundaries and build self confidence.

Parents appreciated their children getting outdoors each day to play, take part in active play and have access to fresh air.

We found that the childminder was vigilant in her care of the minded children. Children attending the service were kept safe through the various systems the childminder had in place. There were full risk assessments in place covering the premises as well as regular walks and outings. We reminded the childminder to include the date when any reviews of risk assessments took place. The childminder explained that she completed daily visual checks before the children arrived as well as at the end of the day. The spread of infection was minimised by effective cleaning measures.

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

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

Quality indicator 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are well led.

The childminder shared the aims and objectives of the service with families prior to children starting. There was a very good range of policies in place which supported the childminder to deliver high quality care and support to all children attending the service and their families.

Throughout the inspection visit, the childminder demonstrated a motivated and enthusiastic approach to continuous improvement. There was a robust system of quality assurance in place, including self evaluation, which led to the ongoing development of the service. The childminder had made use of current best practice tool kits to self evaluate. Through their own self evaluation, the childminder had identified the strengths of the service and which areas she should develop to allow her to continue to deliver high quality care and support to children and their families.

The childminder recognised the importance of partnership working and had established very good working relationships with families. She valued parental feedback and encouraged families to give feedback informally. Taking account of their views and suggestions contributed to families feeling valued, included and respected.

Daily communication with families was a key strength of the service. A variety of communication methods were used to keep families informed of their child's day. Daily conversations and online messages helped families feel involved in all aspects of their child's play and learning. Parent comments included; 'great communication' and 'Morven and I communicate well'.

Children were empowered and very much involved in the day to day running of the service and deciding what they would like to do while they were there. The childminder listened to any feedback the children made about the activities they took part in and took this into account when reviewing her service.

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

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

Quality indicator 4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values

The childminder recognised and understood the importance of nurturing and positive relationships. The childminder was very warm, nurturing and caring in her approach which supported children to feel valued, respected and loved. There was one child present on the day of the inspection who was very happy, settled and relaxed in the care of the childminder. The childminder was very attentive to the child and continued to put their needs first. Parent's comments about the childminder's professional qualities included; 'Really great relationship. Great communication and lots of flexibility' and 'Morven is warm, friendly and professional. She communicates well' and 'When he is in her care I know he is safe, happy and cared for which is extremely reassuring'.

The childminder provided a flexible service and was very aware of and responsive to the individual needs of the children who attended her service. Children were encouraged to share their views, thoughts and opinions through regular discussion. Children were actively encouraged to choose activities and experiences each day. This meant children felt listened to, knew their views mattered and supported their self esteem and self confidence. We observed lots of chat between the childminder and the child present as to what they would like to do that morning.

The childminder demonstrated that she had the appropriate knowledge and skills to provide high quality care and experiences for the children attending. The childminder was reflective and was able to identify areas for development to support individual children in her care. She had attended a range of training to support and improve her practice, particularly in relation to providing care and support for children with additional support needs. The childminder was able to tell us how she had used what she had learnt to develop the service to ensure that she met the individual needs of the children. As a result, children and their families experienced high quality care and support from a childminder who was dedicated and passionate about their role in ensuring children thrived and flourished in their care.

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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