

Rae, Andrea Child Minding

Stirling

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
14 August 2024

Service provided by:
Andrea Rae

Service provider number:
SP2004935753

Service no:
CS2003043118

About the service

Andrea Rae provides a childminding service from their home. The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of five children at any one time under the age of 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under twelve months. The numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own family.

The service is located in a residential area of Stirling close to local amenities.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 14 August 2024 between 08:50 and 11:30. 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:

- spent time with the children using the service
- received feedback from two family members
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children experienced warm, kind and nurturing interactions.
- Respectful and trusting relationships had been developed with children and families.
- The childminder listened to children and provided activities and experiences that linked to their interest, offering challenge and fun.
- Effective communication with parents meant that children's needs were supported and parents felt included in their child's care.
- The childminder made very good use of the local community.
- Children benefitted from a service that continually improved.
- The childminder's commitment to their own professional learning was improving outcomes for 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?	4 - 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?

4 - Good

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where several strengths impacted positively on children's outcomes and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality Indicator 1.1 - Nurturing care and support

Children were happy, settled and relaxed in the care of the childminder. Their needs were fully met through nurturing and caring interactions, which meant children felt loved, safe and secure. One parent told us, "Any child that finds themselves being cared for by Mandy (the childminder) is lucky". This showed children felt cared for and loved.

Children benefitted from a childminder that knew them very well as individuals. They spoke confidently about children's experiences and their individual next steps. This supported children to reach their full potential.

Personal plans were in place for all children. They were detailed and captured each child's key information, including specific health and wellbeing requirements, family preferences and children's wishes and choices. The plans were completed with parents and carers and routinely reviewed to ensure that they continued to meet the changing needs of children. This meant children received the care that was right for them.

Snack time was an unhurried and relaxed social experience. Parents provided snack and lunch for their children. The childminder sat at the table and spoke to children about their day. They laughed together and engaged in meaningful conversations. This ensured mealtimes were a positive social experience.

Systems for recording medication were in place, including parental permissions, storage information and records of administration. One of the forms from the childminder stated that the medication held had expired. We shared this with the childminder that took action to ensure that this was updated. To ensure children's individual medical needs are met, the childminder should ensure that medical information is updated at a minimum of every three months and that all medication is in date (**see area for improvement 1**).

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 1.3 - Play and learning

The childminder had a very good understanding of child development, which meant experiences and play were based on children's development and individual learning needs. Children were actively involved in leading their play.

Outdoor play experiences were provided to children every day which allowed them to be active and explore the world around them. Children benefitted from free flow play between the outdoors and indoors. They explored local parks, visited museums and went to coffee mornings with other members of the community. This showed that children were supported to be active and were a meaningful part of their own community.

Children had opportunities to revisit their learning in floor books. The childminder recorded children's learning, interests and views in a floor book. This had continued to develop over time. The childminder had plans to further develop this approach to allow each child to have their own journal. We encouraged the childminder to continue with their plans. This would further support children to share their learning with families and celebrate their achievements.

Children's creativity was supported as they had access to a range of loose parts and open ended resources. These included natural resources and craft materials. They used these to build, make necklaces and explore. This supported children's developing problem solving and creative thinking.

Children were progressing well in literacy and numeracy. The childminder ensured there were a range of opportunities for children to develop these skills. For example, as children used problem solving to build a dam over a stream or discussed different sizes and shapes. As a result, children were supported to reach their full potential.

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure children's individual health and well-being needs are met, the provider should ensure that medication procedures are in line with best practice guidance. This should include but not be limited to:

- a) Ensuring that medication permissions are reviewed every three months or termly.
- b) Ensure all medication held is in date and has not expired.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'Any treatment or intervention that I experience is safe and effective' (HSCS 1.24).

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

Children were cared for in an environment that was bright, homely and inviting. They had access to the kitchen/dining area, the lounge and a large outdoor area in the back of the childminder's home. There were dedicated spaces which allowed children to choose from a variety of age appropriate resources, arts and crafts materials and natural resources. As a result, children had fun as they explored these spaces.

The childminder understood the positive impact that outdoor play had on children's overall wellbeing. The garden had been thoughtfully planned and adapted to encourage children's interests and development. There was a slide for children to use, a shaded area and a shed to store further resources. Children were able to choose to bring resources indoors or outdoors. This showed children's views and choices were valued and respected.

Risk assessments were in place and effectively highlighted hazards and actions to minimise potential risks to children. Children benefitted from real life experiences that supported risk benefit. For example, as they used a large slide in the garden or explored a local stream. These real life experiences supported children's understanding of risk and how to keep themselves safe. We suggested the childminder ensure that risk assessments are updated regularly. This ensure that as hazards change, they are identified.

Effective infection prevention and control measures were in place. Children were encouraged to wash their hands at key times and the home was free from clutter, which made it easily cleaned. This supported children to be healthy as the risk of infection was minimised.

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

Children benefitted from the childminder's positive and nurturing ethos. The childminder's caring approach supported children to make choices and be independent. This reflected the aims of the service, which put children at the heart.

The childminder was passionate and committed to the ongoing improvement and development of the service. They focused on ensuring children were provided with the best possible care and support. They worked in partnership with families to meet children's individual needs. The friendly, professional and open approach the childminder had with children and families supported the development of relationships based on mutual trust and respect. One parent told us, "As a parent myself, I look up to her for advice".

Successes and achievements were communicated with families, strengthening partnership working, which met children's needs. One parent told us, "Mandy (the childminder) is very open with communication and is happy to discuss anything related to my child". The childminder communicated regularly with families and gathered their feedback informally. We suggested the childminder further develop this approach to gather families' views and opinions formally. This would further support the childminder to reflect on children's needs and support the continued improvement of the service.

The childminder's commitment to improvement ensured children experienced consistently high quality care, play and learning. The childminder spoke confidently about planned improvements and improvements which they had started on. For example, improving the quality of floor books was a current improvement priority. Clear actions had been taken and the improvement was evident in the quality of these books. This showed children benefitted from a childminder that continued to improve their service.

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 quality theme as very good.

Quality Indicator 4.1 - Staff skills, knowledge and values

Children experienced warmth, kindness and compassion in the responsive interactions with the childminder. One parent told us, "Mandy (the childminder) is the most positive experience for my child as she has cared for my child so attentively". This enabled them to feel valued and secure as positive relationships had been established and maintained. Smiles and laughter received from children throughout the inspection clearly demonstrated their strong attachments with the childminder.

The childminder understood the importance of strong connections with children and their families. The childminder put children first and at the heart of their service. Their kind and nurturing approach ensured that children felt safe and their families were valued and respected.

The experienced childminder had a very good understanding of child development. The rights of the child were promoted and evident in the childminder's practice and in their interactions with children. Children were consulted and their views were respected and valued. As a result, children were happy and relaxed as their overall wellbeing was supported and their needs were being met.

The childminder showed a strong commitment to their own professional learning. They regularly attended training, used best practice guidance to inform their practice and worked in partnership with the local authority. The childminder spoke confidently about the positive impact this work had on experiences and 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?	4 - Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	4 - 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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