

Dobson, Amanda

Child Minding

Dunfermline

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
11 October 2024

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2003904448

Service no:
CS2003007481

About the service

Amanda Dobson provides a childminding service from their property in a village on the outskirts of Dunfermline. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of six children up to 16 years of age. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own children.

The service is close to the local primary school, shops, parks and other amenities. The children are cared for in the living room and dining room. They use the upstairs bathroom and have access to an enclosed rear garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 10 October 2024 between 12:45 and 14:50. 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 one child using the service
- received feedback from five families
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and children's experiences
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children experienced warm, nurturing, and caring interactions.
- The childminder had a very good understanding of children's development and provided effective support to meet their needs and to help them achieve.
- Children's opportunities for play and learning were enhanced through strong connections with their local community.
- The childminder demonstrated a strong commitment to providing positive outcomes for children.
- Children and families' views were genuinely valued by the childminder.
- The childminder recognised the importance of fun in children's play and were enthusiastic and committed to providing high quality care, play and learning experiences.

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

Children experienced warm, nurturing, and caring interactions and as a result, they had formed positive attachments with the childminder. Their individual needs and cues were understood and responded to effectively. One child told us, "I like that she is kind and caring". Families were very positive about the care their children received. Their comments included, "My child has a great relationship with Mandy and loves going. I feel they have a great bond", "Mandy is a wonderful role model" and "Mandy very much welcomes discussions about my child, and it very much feels like a home from home".

Effective use of personal plans supported the childminder to meet each child's needs and wishes which supported positive outcomes. Children experienced continuity and consistency of care as families shared information about their child. The childminder knew children very well and used personal plan information to ensure children's home routines and preferences were followed.

Sleep routines were reflective of children and families' individual needs and wishes. Children were sensitively supported to sleep and were given comfort, cuddles, and reassurance. We discussed how the sleeping arrangements could be improved to increase children's comfort and create a high quality sleep space. The childminder was responsive to our suggestions.

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children experienced fun, joy and laughter. They led their own play experiences and independently selected resources and activities of their choice. The childminder responded to children's interests in a meaningful and engaging way.

The childminder had a very good understanding of children's development and provided effective support to meet their needs and to help them achieve. The childminder was responsive to children, giving them time and space to lead their play independently and provided support and interaction when invited. Children were supported to develop skills in language, literacy and numeracy. For example, through the repetition of words and phrases and sorting items during play by shape and colour.

Children's opportunities for play and learning were enhanced through strong connections with their local community. For example, children enjoyed going on the bus and playing at parks. This supported them to explore and learn about the world around them. These experiences had a positive impact on children's wellbeing and development.

Effective use of observation and recording of significant learning supported the childminder to plan experiences to support children's development. As a result, children experienced high quality play and learning. Families were involved in children's learning and development, with regular updates of their progress and achievements shared.

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 experienced care in a well-furnished and comfortable environment. They were kept safe and protected as the service was well maintained and clean. The childminder had created a homely environment for children to play and relax which supported them to feel confident and secure.

Children's stages of development and interests were well considered and reflected in the selection of resources on offer. Toys and resources were easily accessible which promoted choice and were rotated regularly based on children's interests. This stimulated, engaged, and challenged children in their play. There were some opportunities for children to play with loose parts and open-ended materials which promoted children's imagination. This could be extended to promote curiosity and problem solving.

Children benefitted from outdoor experiences. They enjoyed playing in the garden and going on outings to parks and woodland. These opportunities enabled children to experience physical, active play which supported them to develop their gross motor skills.

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 demonstrated a strong commitment to providing positive outcomes for children. The vision, values and aims had been reviewed by the childminder and reflected the service provided. It was evident that children experienced a warm, friendly and safe environment.

Children and families' views were genuinely valued by the childminder. The childminder recognised the importance of positive relationships and actively sought their feedback to inform the development of the service. Both informal conversations and formal methods such as questionnaires enabled families to share their ideas and suggestions. The childminder listened and acted on their feedback to make improvements.

The childminder was very reflective which supported them to identify strengths and areas for improvement. As a result, they had identified scope to develop and improve the garden. Their professional approach and commitment to improvement ensured children experienced consistently high quality care, play and learning.

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

Children experienced compassionate and responsive care which enabled them to feel happy and relaxed. The childminder understood children's individual needs, which had a positive impact on their wellbeing and development. They recognised the value of strong attachments and responded sensitively to children's cues offering comfort and reassurance. Families were very positive about the childminder's approach. Their comments included, "Mandy is always approachable and shows a keen interest in our children" and "Friendly and professional".

The childminder demonstrated a professional attitude to their role. They recognised the importance of fun in children's play and were enthusiastic and committed to providing high quality care, play and learning experiences. Children benefitted from the childminder's commitment and motivation to learn. The childminder was proactive and engaged well with a range of professional development opportunities which enhanced outcomes for children. They were very reflective and used their learning to impact positively on improving practice.

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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