

Sonia Moyles Child Minding

Dunfermline

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
4 November 2024

Service provided by:
Sonia Moyles

Service provider number:
SP2004939468

Service no:
CS2004079565

About the service

Sonia Moyles operates a childminding service from their home in a residential area of Dunfermline, Fife. Children have access to a dedicated playroom, kitchen, toilet and living room which are all on the same level. They also have supervised access to the enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the property. The service is close to the local primary school, shops, parks and other amenities.

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 childminders family/ household. Minded children can only be cared for by persons named on the certificate.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Wednesday 30 October 2024 between 08:00 and 09:10, and Thursday 31 October 2024 between 14:00 and 15:30. Feedback was provided to the childminder on Monday 4 November 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 in the service
- reviewed digital responses from four families
- spoke with two families in person
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and interactions with children
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children experienced care and support from a service that was dedicated to meeting their needs.
- Children had fun as they explored the local community.
- Children were happy, confident and making progress.
- The experienced childminder had a good understanding of child development.
- The childminder should develop formal ways to evaluate the service.

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?	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	3 - Adequate
How good is our staff team?	4 - 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 were cared for with kindness, respect and a compassionate approach. The childminder knew children very well and positive relationships were evident in the relaxed, easy nature of interactions.

The childminder took into account personal preferences and personalities, and offered support and encouragement to promote children's independence. They understood the importance of secure, positive relationships with families to ensure children experienced consistency in their care and routines.

Families were very happy with the service provided. One parent told us, "Sonia is an amazing childminder who my children are extremely comfortable with." Another family said, "Sonia is very approachable and is keen to be involved in any changes/plans regarding the children's routines. She addresses any concerns promptly." As a result, children were relaxed and happy in a service that supported their overall wellbeing.

The childminder had developed personal plans for all children in a way that worked well for the service, children and families. Important information was recorded, stored securely, and updated regularly. This meant that the care provided met the needs of individuals and respected the wishes of parents.

At the time of inspection no children required medication. We were satisfied that appropriate procedures were in place to safely administer, record and share information with families when it was needed.

Quality Indicator 1.3 - Play and learning

The childminder was organised and prepared for children arriving at the service. There was a balance of spontaneous and planned activities which promoted children's choice and independence. We observed children enjoying Halloween crafts before school. The childminder was close by to chat with children about their designs. They encouraged children to have a go and discussed how to use scissors safely. Planning was responsive to children's interests and took account of their age and stage of development. As a result, children were happy, confident and making progress.

The childminder had developed a personal development plan for each child. The plans, and children's next steps, had been discussed and decided in consultation with children and families. They were relevant for individual children, realistic and achievable. Children reviewed and evaluated observations of their learning with the childminder. Their voices were recorded and visible within plans, and were represented, for example, by children drawing a smiley face or commenting. This meant children were recognised as individuals and supported to achieve their potential.

The local community was well used to extend children's experiences. The childminder made very good use of local woodlands as children explored nature walking to and from school, and nursery. Children had fun as they played with friends after school in the local park. Outdoor experiences meant children were learning about the benefits of an active lifestyle that promoted their health and wellbeing. One child told us, "Sonia lets us play at the park and takes us walks, and that's why I love going to Sonia's."

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

We evaluated this key question as 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 were welcomed into a dedicated playroom which gave them a strong message that they mattered. Their art work, photographs and writing were thoughtfully displayed. The playroom had been organised to ensure children could independently access a variety of age appropriate games and resources. Soft furnishings such as a rug, cushions and blankets, meant children had opportunities to rest and relax. The living room was used, on occasion, as an additional quiet space for children to enjoy. They also had access to the kitchen, bathroom and hallway. This meant that children accessed ample space for their needs, which supported their wellbeing.

During the inspection the childminder told us that the garden area at the rear of the property was not being used by children. An informal risk assessment had determined that there were areas of decking that required some maintenance. They had decided that until repairs were carried out it was not safe for children. This did not impact on children's experiences, due to the length of time children were cared for by the childminder. The childminder made very good use of the local community, and walked to and from the school every day. This ensured children had access to regular physical exercise and fresh air.

Infection prevention and control measures were in place. For example, we witnessed children being encouraged to wash their hands at key times. Regular cleaning of toys and resources alongside effective handwashing meant we were satisfied that the spread of infection was minimised.

Risk assessments had been further developed since the last inspection and were being regularly reviewed. We suggested ways to involve children, by recording their own assessment of risk, as the childminder reviewed and developed further risk assessments. This would give children a sense of ownership as they learned important life skills.

How good is our leadership?**3 - Adequate**

We evaluated this key question as adequate. While the strengths had a positive impact, key areas need to improve.

Quality Indicator 3.1 - Quality assurance and improvements are led well

The childminders vision, values and aims for the service were evident in the warm interactions and positive relationships we witnessed throughout the inspection. Children told us that they "loved" going to the childminders house and playing with their friends. The fun and nurturing nature of the childminder meant that children felt valued, safe and secure.

Positive, trusting relationships had been established with children and families, and the childminder knew them well. Their views were gathered through observations and informal discussions. These were used to influence the care provided and were considered when planning improvements within the service. We discussed the importance of the childminder documenting their improvement plan and sharing this with children and families. This would provide an opportunity for the childminder to share their successes and achievements.

The childminder should develop formal ways to evaluate the service. We highlighted best practice guidance which would help with this. For example, A Quality Framework for daycare of children, childminding, and

school aged childcare and the Care Inspectorate bitesize resources. This would support the childminder to reflect and record what is working well in their service and what could be improved. This could also support children and families to have meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development of the service. This was highlighted at the previous inspection and we have restated this area for improvement (see area for improvement 1).

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure children and families experience a service that is continuously developing and improving, the childminder should actively seek and record their views. These should be used, alongside the childminders reflections, to develop an improvement plan for the service.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'I am actively encouraged to be involved in improving the service I use, in a spirit of genuine partnership.' (HSCS 4.7).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes.' (HSCS 4.19).

How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as 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 experienced childminder had a good understanding of child development. They were mindful of this as they planned learning experiences, ensuring activities were age and stage appropriate but also offered challenge for children. The childminder was motivated to provide the best possible experiences for children and families.

The warm, caring and nurturing approaches experienced by children meant they were happy and having fun as their overall wellbeing was supported. Children told us that they liked going to the childminder's. One child said, "I love going to Sonia's because she is so nice to us, she's fun." Another child said, "My favourite part of coming to Sonia's is the fun that we all have."

Mandatory training courses ensured the childminder's knowledge was up to date and kept children safe. They had been pro-active in sourcing and attending online training relevant to their service and the children and families they supported. The childminder had developed ways to record and reflect on training. They considered the impact training had on the service they provided and the difference it made to their practice.

The childminder was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association. They engaged with other childminders in the area to share ideas and good practice. This meant that children experienced care and support from a service that was dedicated to meeting their needs.

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

To support children's learning and development, the childminder should ensure children have access to open-ended resources appropriate for their age and stage of development. These should provide opportunities for children to be creative and develop their natural curiosity.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I choose, and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity (HSCS 2.27).

This area for improvement was made on 27 September 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder had a variety of resources, including open-ended resources, which were organised and accessible for children. This supported them to have choice and encouraged independence as they explored their creativity. The childminder made good use of the local community which provided opportunities for children to explore nature and gather natural resources.

This area for improvement has been met.

Previous area for improvement 2

To ensure children's health, safety and wellbeing is not compromised, the childminder should continue to develop and record assessments of risk. They should ensure these are working as planned. This would support effective practice and promote children's safety. These should be clear and easily understood by all people involved, to ensure a consistent understanding.

This is in order to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: 'My environment is secure and safe' (HSCS 5.17).

This area for improvement was made on 27 September 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder had developed and was reviewing risk assessments regularly. We discussed ways to involve children when these are being reviewed, and as the childminder developed further risk assessments for additional areas, such as the garden and outdoor play.

This area for improvement has been met.

Previous area for improvement 3

To ensure children receive high quality care and support from the continued development of the service, the childminder should develop quality assurance and self-evaluation processes. Procedures should be created

that include ways to gather parents' and children's views. This will help identify any areas for improvement that will improve outcomes for children.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

This area for improvement was made on 27 September 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder regularly consults children and families informally through daily discussions. Children and families told us that they had a good relationship with the childminder and were confident and comfortable to provide feedback regarding the service. The childminder should consider the views of children and families as they formalise self-evaluation of the service and develop an improvement plan. This area for improvement has not been fully met and has been restated in this report.

This area for improvement has not been fully met.

Previous area for improvement 4

To support children's wellbeing, learning and development, the childminder should identify training and reading about quality childcare, to develop their skills and knowledge. The childminder should record learning and demonstrate how it has improved experiences and outcomes for children.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes.' (HSCS 3.14).

This area for improvement was made on 27 September 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder had attended several training courses relevant to their service, including Child Protection training. They had recorded course information and impact training had on their practice.

This area for improvement has been met.

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?	4 - Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	3 - Adequate
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	3 - Adequate
How good is our staff team?	4 - Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	4 - Good

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iarrtas.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.