

Black, Shona Child Minding

Kinross

Type of inspection:
Announced (short notice)

Completed on:
7 November 2024

Service provided by:
Shona Black

Service provider number:
SP2003905215

Service no:
CS2003009809

About the service

Shona Black is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 8 children at any one time under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months.

Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own children.

The part of the premises not to be used is the first floor.

This childminding service is provided from a property situated in a residential area of Kinross. The service is close to the local primary school, shops, parks, and other amenities. Internally, children have access to a living room, playroom, kitchen, dining room and toilet. Externally is a large, fully enclosed garden used for outdoor play.

About the inspection

This was a short notice announced inspection which took place on 7 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 registration information, previous inspection findings, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- observed the children at play and their interactions with the childminder
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily routines
- received feedback from families
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were happy and relaxed in the childminder's care.
- A strong emphasis was placed on accessing the local and wider community.
- The childminder has developed strong relationships with children and families.
- The childminder should broaden children's play experiences and provide more natural and open-ended resources to support their learning and development.
- The childminder should develop the self-evaluation of her service, identifying areas for development and improvement.
- The childminder should continue to identify and meet her training needs to extend her knowledge and enhance 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?	3 - Adequate
How good is our setting?	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	3 - Adequate
How good is our staff team?	3 - Adequate

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care, play and learning?

3 - Adequate

We evaluated this key question as adequate, where strengths only just outweighed weaknesses.

Quality Indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support

Children were happy and relaxed in the childminders company and benefited from warm and caring interactions. Children were encouraged and praised and enjoyed cuddles with the childminder which supported their self-esteem. This demonstrated positive attachments had been formed. Parents shared with us, "Shona offers a safe place where my children are treated like part of the family. Offering love and kindness. That's what I want for them."

Information was gathered for all the children through personal plans and 'All about me' documents to help the childminder care for and support the children. Information held for each child was now reviewed with families every six months, however, some aspects of children's care had not been included in the review. Children would benefit from the childminder reviewing all information with families to ensure they have up to date information to meet children's changing needs.

Families provided packed lunches for their children and the childminder provided a range of healthy snacks and fruit. Children washed their hands prior to eating which supported their independence and sense of responsibility. The childminder sat with children as they ate which supported a nice, sociable experience for children.

Improvements had been made to children's sleep routines since the last inspection. Children could now sleep safely and conformably in a travel cot. This now reflected safe sleep practice.

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Good use was made of the local and wider community. The childminder told us that they regularly went to playgroups, parks and day trips on buses to different towns and cities. Parents were happy with the play and learning opportunities available for their children. Comments from parents included, "She teaches them life skills like baking, shopping, playing, social interactions."

The indoor environment provided sufficient space for children to play and relax in comfort. A separate playroom supported children to choose from a range of toys which included construction sets, books and small world toys. The living room was laid out with a small range of toys which included a wooden tea set, play kitchen and pretend shop. Resources were clean and in good condition. Children shared they liked, "Baking, going to the park and playing with playdoh."

Children's early communication and language development was supported through singing and reading stories. The childminder spoke warmly about the children and listened to them, encouraging and supporting the children's language and vocabulary.

The childminder was at the early stages of completing observations of children's progress, achievements and next steps. The childminder should continue to formalise and develop these and ensure children's observations are meaningful with relevant next steps. This will support children to progress and develop a broad range of lifelong learning skills.

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

The childminder's home offered a homely and comfortable environment for children. There was ample space for children where they could move freely around the childminder's home.

The childminder's home was tidy and well-maintained. Suitable infection prevention and control measures were in place which included handwashing by the children and childminder at appropriate times. Personal protective equipment (PPE) was stored safely and within easy reach of the childminder.

Children could access a separate playroom where children could choose from a range of toys. The childminder should consider the presentation of toys and resources to ensure they are easily accessible and help children feel valued and respected. Children could also access a fully enclosed outdoor area. A small variety of resources were available outdoors. These included trikes, rockers and a playhouse. The childminder should now consider how she broadens children's play experiences to extend learning and development opportunities. This should include a review of resources available, more opportunities for children to be explorative and use their imaginations with more varied, natural and open-ended resources provided. **(See area for improvement 2 under 'What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection'.)**

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

We evaluated this key question as adequate, where strengths only just outweighed weaknesses.

Quality Indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The vision, values and aims reflected the service and were shared with families when they visited. This supported them to have clear expectations around how their child's needs would be met in the setting.

The childminder gathered feedback about her service through informal methods and parent questionnaire's. The childminder should continue to collate feedback from parents and children and use any suggestions to inform improvements to the service.

The childminder had made some improvements to her service since the last inspection. These included the implementation of safe sleep practice. The childminder should now make herself familiar with the Care Inspectorate guidance 'A quality framework for day care of children, childminding and school aged children'. She should use this as a self-evaluation tool to help her identify any improvements required to support positive outcomes for children. **(See area for improvement 1 under 'What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection'.)**

How good is our staff team?

3 - Adequate

We evaluated this key question as adequate, where strengths only just outweighed weaknesses.

Quality Indicator 4.1: Staff skills, knowledge and values

The childminder was warm and approachable and had established strong relationships with children and their families. She shared information with parents through daily conversations at drop off/pick up times and sent photos and messages online. These were good opportunities to ensure parents were included and involved in what their children were doing when attending the service.

The childminder had attended core training which included child protection and first aid. No additional training had been accessed. The childminder should continue to access training opportunities and professional reading material to enhance her knowledge, skills and practice. Key documents, including 'Realising the ambition', Care Inspectorate guidance 'A quality framework for day care of children, childminding and school aged children' and 'Loose parts play' would enhance how she supports children's play, learning and development. **(See area for improvement 3 under 'What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection'.)**

We suggested the childminder should formally reflect on any training accessed. This would support the childminder to identify the benefit and impact of training accessed and identify any gaps in her knowledge. This would enable her to identify further training or reading of best practice documents to support positive outcomes for children.

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 improve outcomes for children, quality assurance, including self-evaluation should be developed. The childminder should become familiar with best practice guidance and use this to reflect on the service and plan for continuous improvement.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standard (HSCS) which state 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 28 September 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder had made some improvements to her service since the last inspection. However, the childminder should now make herself familiar with the Care Inspectorate guidance 'A quality framework for day care of children, childminding and school aged children'. She should use this as a self-evaluation tool to help her identify any improvements required to support positive outcomes for children.

This area for improvement has not been met and remains in place.

Previous area for improvement 2

To support children's development, imagination and creative play, the childminder should develop the resources available to stimulate and challenge children in their play. This should include, but is not limited to, increasing the range of loose parts, open ended and natural materials.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'As a child, my social and physical skills, confidence, self-esteem and creativity are developed through a balance of organised and freely chosen extended play, including using open ended and natural materials' (HSCS 1.31).

This area for improvement was made on 30 May 2022.

Action taken since then

The childminder had introduced a small selection of wooden resources. However, there was scope to extend the range of loose parts, open-ended and natural materials to support children's development.

This area for improvement has not been met and remains in place.

Previous area for improvement 3

To support children's wellbeing, learning and development, the childminder should access training and professional development and apply their learning in practice. This should include, but is not limited to, increasing her knowledge around children's play and development.

This is to ensure that 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' (HSCS 3.14).

This area for improvement was made on 30 May 2022.

Action taken since then

The childminder had not undertaken training and professional development which impacted positively on children's experiences.

This area for improvement has not been met and remains in place.

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?	3 - Adequate
1.1 Nurturing care and support	4 - Good
1.3 Play and learning	3 - Adequate
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?	3 - Adequate
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	3 - Adequate

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