

Liz's Lambs Childcare Child Minding

Dundee

Type of inspection:
Announced (short notice)

Completed on:
5 March 2025

Service provided by:
Elizabeth Duncan

Service provider number:
SP2004934486

Service no:
CS2004081011

About the service

Liz's Lambs Childcare is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of six will be under 12, 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.

This childminding service is provided from a property situated in a residential area of Dundee. The service is close to the local primary school, shops, parks, and other amenities. Internally, children have access to a living room, kitchen and bathroom. Externally is a fully enclosed garden.

About the inspection

This was a short, announced inspection which took place on 5 March 2025 between 09:30 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, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

This inspection was part of a pilot to test the 'Quality Improvement framework for early learning and childcare sectors' developed jointly with Education Scotland. Because this inspection was part of a pilot, no new evaluations (grades) have been awarded.

During the inspection we:

- spent time with one child using the service
- received questionnaire feedback from two families
- spoke with children and the childminder
- observed practice and children's experiences
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- A warm and homely environment was provided for children.
- The childminder should continue to develop the self-evaluation of her service, identifying areas for development and regularly evaluate any progress made.

Leadership

Quality Indicator - Leadership and management of staff and resources

The vision, values and aims reflected the service offered. They included the provision of a safe and homely environment where children could play and learn. These were shared with families in a detailed welcome booklet. This supported families to have clear expectations around how their child's needs would be met in the service. We suggested that families and children could be included in the next review of these. This would ensure any planned developments or improvements meet children's rights, interests, curiosities, needs and preferences.

The childminder used the Care Inspectorate guidance 'A quality framework for day care of children, childminding and school aged children' as a self-evaluation tool. They also gathered feedback from families through informal methods and questionnaires. Families confirmed that communication was good, and that the childminder sought their views and wishes. The childminder should continue to collate feedback from parents and children and use any suggestions to inform improvements to the service.

The childminder had created an improvement plan that highlighted some areas for development. These included ensuring her training was kept up to date and to make improvements to the garden area. We suggested the childminder use SMART targets (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound). This would ensure the improvement plan is a meaningful working document that supports ongoing improvement to the service. It would be beneficial to follow up on any areas for development that had been identified and evaluate any progress made. This would support them in delivering high quality care and learning for children.

Quality Indicator - Staff skills, knowledge, values and deployment

The childminder had a clear understanding of how children develop and learn. They used key documents including Realising the Ambition and the SHANARRI indicators (safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, and responsible) to identify children's progress and support them to develop. They spoke confidently and knowledgeably about the children who attended the service and knew them well. Families agreed and one shared, "We have regular discussions around my child's ongoing needs". This ensured children were achieving and progressing well.

Policies and procedures were in place and reviewed regularly to ensure they contained the correct information to support the childminder to operate their business safely. We suggested the childminder should make themselves familiar with the Care Inspectorate notification guidance to ensure policies reflected appropriate timescales for notifications. The childminder should also review the medication policy and consent to administer medication forms and ensure these meet best practice guidance. This would ensure the childminder has all the information they need to keep children safe.

The childminder held a recognised childcare award and had attended core training which included child protection, first aid and infection prevention and control. Several additional courses had been accessed which included child development and cultural awareness. This supported the childminder to ensure children's wellbeing and development needs were being met.

The childminder regularly engaged in professional discussions with other childminders in the area, who they met weekly for shared activities with children. Other opportunities available to help inform their practice included regular access to early years social media groups and childminder webinars. This supported the childminder to build on their knowledge and effectiveness.

Children were kept safe and effectively supervised by the childminder. Transitions between the childminders home and school had been considered. Children's routines were not disrupted due to transitions. This helped children to feel confident and secure when in the childminder's care.

Children thrive and develop in quality spaces

Quality Indicator - Children experience high quality spaces

The childminder's home offered a homely, welcoming and comfortable environment for children. There was sufficient space for children to play and relax. Families agreed and one shared, "Warm friendly environment, like home from home".

Children were cared for in a safe and secure environment. The childminder shared possible hazards and the mitigations that were in place. We asked the childminder to ensure that risk assessments were dated. This would support a regular review to ensure they remain relevant, accurate, and effective in protecting children from harm.

The childminder was aware of the positive impact outdoor play can have on children's overall development. They regularly took the children to the local park for fresh air and exercise. A secure garden provided a space for outdoor play, however children rarely used this. The childminder had identified they would like to make some improvements to this area, to ensure it is inviting and inspiring to children. We encouraged the childminder to involve the children in the development of this area. This would support them to feel included in improvements to the service.

Good use was made of the local community. The childminder told us that they regularly went to parks, toddler group and the library. This provided good opportunities for the children to interact with other children to develop their social skills.

Infection prevention control procedures and regular training helped the childminder to ensure that the risk of infection for children was minimised. The childminders home was tidy and well maintained. The childminder discussed their procedure when children required personal care. This followed best practice to support children's health and wellbeing.

Children's developmental needs and interests were reflected within the resources available to them. The childminder shared that they regularly rotated toys and resources based on the needs and interests of children attending. These were presented well in storage cabinets and were easily accessible to children. Resources were well maintained and of a good quality and included books, dolls, animals, building blocks, puzzles and games. Some loose parts were available to support imaginative play. There were opportunities to develop learning in literacy and numeracy. During play the childminder discussed colours and numbers with the children and modelled speech. Singing was also naturally incorporated into play, which the young child enjoyed.

Children's information was stored securely and well managed. Training had been undertaken and a detailed GDPR policy were in place to support the childminder with this. This ensured children's rights were protected.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

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