

Jolly Jacks Child Minding

Cowdenbeath

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
28 April 2025

Service provided by:
Lauren Finlay

Service provider number:
SP2023000292

Service no:
CS2024000016

About the service

Jolly Jacks operates a childminding service from their family home in Hill of Beath, Cowdenbeath, Fife. They are registered to provide care to a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age: 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 household. The service had previously employed an assistant. This condition will be removed from the registration.

Children had access to the living room, kitchen, enclosed back garden and toilet facilities upstairs. The service is close to the local school and nursery, green spaces, amenities and can be reached by public transport links.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Thursday 24 April between 09:15 and 11:45. Feedback was given following the inspection on Monday 28 April. 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, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with three children using the service and received feedback from seven families via an electronic link
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were happy, settled and having fun as they played.
- Positive attachments had been formed that supported children's wellbeing.
- Play experiences had been considered to meet the ages and interests of the children.
- Children benefitted from regular trips and outings to connect with nature and their wider community.
- Meal times promoted independence, offered opportunities for rich discussions at a relaxed pace.
- The childminder demonstrated a professional love for the children that created a warm and nurturing atmosphere.
- The childminder should further develop policies to reflect the service.
- Using self-evaluation tools and consultation with families and children will support the childminder to identify how they will continually develop their 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?	4 - Good
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 experienced warm, nurturing and kind approaches from the childminder. They were happy, settled and confident to explore the play space. Positive relationships had been formed between children and the childminder that supported their overall wellbeing. Families comments included "She is loving and caring and makes sure my daughter receives the best care." My child loves going to Lauren's, she's always happy and excited and thriving" and "Lauren is always super friendly and my child always seems very happy." This meant families had developed trust in the childminder that supported positive partnership working.

Children's right to privacy and dignity had been considered when personal care routines needed support. This meant children's care needs could be met whilst ensuring the safety of others. Mealtimes were relaxed and at the child's pace. Children were involved in selecting healthy food choices and supported to develop independence skills during this routine.

Families told us there was a great range of healthy food choices and they were happy with the meals provided. The childminder sat with children at the dining table engaged in rich conversation, using the opportunity to promote language and communication. As a result, children experienced a calm, relaxed and sociable routine that was part of their everyday experience.

Children safety and wellbeing had been carefully considered. The childminder had appropriate arrangements to support safer sleeping in line with children's individual routines and preferences. This promoted good sleep habits.

Personal plans were in place for children. Plans detailed important information to meet individual needs and preferences. Plans had been reviewed regularly with families and information was updated. All families strongly agreed they were involved in developing and reviewing the personal plan. The childminder was able to tell us how they were supporting each child and the discussions had with families. We suggested they record this information as part of the personal plan.

At the time of our visit, no child required medication. We reviewed previous records and found the management of medication was recorded with detail including permissions, signs and symptoms and when medication had been administered. We suggested the childminder record when medication has been returned to support the safe management of medication procedures they have in place.

Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children had fun as they led their play from a variety of resources available. They enjoyed engaging in role play together supported by the childminder. The warm and nurturing interactions meant all children were included.

Children benefitted from planned and free flow play opportunities.

They had access to books, games, loose parts, dressing up resources, colour matching activities and pasta play. Families told us there was a wide variety of activities on offer. As a result, children were engaged and learning through play.

The childminder promoted learning outdoors. This included regular visits to parks, wooded areas, walks, trips and group activities. Children were also able to access activities on offer in the back garden that included sand and water play, planting and use of large physical equipment. This meant they benefitted from learning in nature and developing a sense of their wider community.

Children's play and learning experiences were recorded in the floor book and shared with families online each day. Families commented "We are kept informed throughout the day, through her closed Facebook page and the diary," "Lauren provides a great service and is always doing fab things with the kids which they thoroughly enjoy." Children enjoyed revisiting their learning by looking at the pictures and families told us they liked receiving the daily updates on what their child had been doing each day. This supported a positive connection between home and the service.

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 experienced a setting that was homely, comfortable, inviting and furnished to high standard. They had access to the living room, kitchen, upstairs toilet and enclosed back garden. Spaces benefitted from lots of natural light and ventilation. Families told us they liked "the friendly and inviting atmosphere within a homely environment" and described the service as "Family orientated."

The childminder had considered age appropriate and engaging resources that promoted curiosity and imagination. Loose parts play had been developed indoors. We encouraged the childminder to look at how this can be developed more in the outdoor area to offer challenge and risk benefit play. Spaces had been organised to support children to move freely and make independent choices. This gave a message that children mattered.

The setting was clean and well maintained. We encouraged the childminder to record when monitoring and maintenance had been carried out, this should include the actions they took when identifying any potential risks and steps taken to rectify this. This would ensure children continued to play in a safe environment.

The childminder had policies and risk assessments in place to support them to deliver their service. We encouraged them to ensure they evidence this review and record any changes to ensure these are effective, working documents. Policies detailed how the service would meet children's needs and had been in place since registering. We encouraged the childminder to review and update policies to reflect guidance and any changes to the service they offer. (See area for improvement 1)

Children's health and wellbeing was promoted through effective infection, prevention and control measures. Hand washing was embedded at key times, spaces were clean and surfaces wiped before and after children ate.

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure the service continues to promote children's safety and wellbeing, they should review and update policies in line with current best practice guidance to ensure they reflect the service.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice' (HSCS: 4.11).

How good is our leadership?

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 3.1: Quality assurance and improvements are led well

The childminder promoted their vision for the service to provide a homely experience where children felt safe, secure and happy. Children were treated with respect and supported to grow and thrive in the setting through engaging and fun experiences.

Questionnaires had been used to gather the views of families to evaluate the service. The childminder also spoke with families each day at drop off and pick up times, gathering informal feedback. Gathering the views of children should also be part of this process. We encouraged the childminder to record this evidence to support their evaluation processes. We signposted them to the Care Inspectorate 'A quality framework for day care of children, childminding and school aged childcare' to further develop self-evaluation procedures. This would guide them in recognising what is going well and what they would like to develop next. Using this best practice guidance would support them in creating a development plan (see area for improvement 1).

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure children continue to thrive and flourish in the service, the childminder should use self-evaluation tools. This should include consultation with children and families. Feedback could support them to create a development plan that demonstrates how they will continually improve the service.

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 & values

Children were safe, felt valued and listened to as the childminder had a nurturing, warm and responsive approach.

We could see positive attachments had been made as the childminder demonstrated a professional love and genuine care for children. This created an atmosphere that was welcoming, warm and fun.

Positive working relationships had been formed with families. The childminder took time each day to update families on how their child had spent their day. Children also had diaries that recorded important information about their routines, activities and wellbeing.

Children were supported to reach their full potential at a pace that was right for them through engaging activities, experiences and interactions. The childminder had a sound knowledge of how children develop and learn and supported children skilfully. Families described the childminder as "Loving, friendly and gives the best service to my daughter," "Lauren is always great with the kids and my daughter really enjoys being there," and "my child feels so comfortable around Lauren and the other children. She feels safe and secure." As a result, all families had positive connections with the childminder.

Children and families benefitted from the childminders commitment to learning and development. They had completed training in child protection, first aid, food hygiene and allergens. We encouraged them to continue to engage in training to further develop their skills and knowledge, reflecting on the impact learning has for children and their service.

The childminder kept updated with current guidance and best practice. They connected with other professionals in the area, using this time to discuss, reflect and support each other. They were registered with the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and used the regular updates from the Care Inspectorate to ensure practice and information was current and had a positive impact on their service.

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?	4 - Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	4 - Good

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.