

Inspection Report & 2023-2024

Lyndsey Dunn

Childminder

07 March 2024

**Under the Regulation of Care Act 2013 and
Regulation of Care (Care Services) Regulations 2013**



DHSC

We carried out this inspection under Part 4 of the Regulation of Care Act 2013 (the Act) as part of our regulatory functions. We checked whether the provider was meeting the legal requirements, regulations and standards associated with the Act. We looked at the overall quality of the service.

We carried out this announced inspection on 07 March 2024. The inspection was led by an inspector from the Registration and Inspection team.

Service and service type

Lyndsey Dunn provides 'childminding' for one or more children under 8 years old by a person at a private dwelling for reward and for more than a total of 2 hours in the same day.

People's experience of using this service and what we found

To get to the heart of people's experiences of care and treatment, we always ask the following five questions:

- Is it safe?
- Is it effective?
- Is it caring?
- Is it responsive to people's needs?
- Is it well-led?

These questions form the framework for the areas we look at during the inspection.

Our key findings

The setting was clean and well equipped with a variety of toys available for the children to select. The childminder attends a number of child focused community groups with the children as well as visiting parks and taking the children out for walks when the weather permits. The children are transported by car.

The area of the premises used were on the ground floor and included the conservatory (currently being used as the dining area), lounge and playroom, which was adjacent to the kitchen. The kitchen was not accessible to the children by use of a safety gate. The garden was secure and utilised during the summer months, but due to recent storm damage requires some work before it can be accessed.

The childminder had a good understanding of child development and the individual needs of each child. Observations made throughout the inspection were positive; with clear communication, lots of praise and interaction.

About the service

The childminder must not look after more than 3 (three) children at any one time under the age of 8 (eight) years, including her own children,

Of these 3 (three) children:

- No more than 2 (two) children must be under the age of 1 (one) year
- No more than 3 (three) children must be under the age of 5 (five) years.

Lyndsey Dunn has been registered as a childminder for 3 (three) years; she lives in the Sulby area and uses her car to transport the children.

At the time of the inspection there were 2 (two) children present.

Notice of Inspection

This inspection was part of our annual inspection programme which took place between April 2023 and March 2024.

Inspection activity started on 31 January 2024. We visited the location's service on 07 March 2024.

What we did before the inspection

We reviewed information we received about the service since the last inspection. We used the information the provider sent us in the provider information return (PIR), notifications, complaints/compliments and any safeguarding issues.

We sent parental questionnaires to parents of minded children

During the inspection

We used an observational framework for inspection, this is a way of observing care to help us understand the experience of people/children.

C1 Is the service safe?

Our findings:

Safe – this means we looked for evidence that people were protected from abuse and avoidable harm. The service does not require any improvements in this area.

This service was found to be safe.

Prevention and control of infection

To minimise the risk of infection the childminder reported that she cleans the setting daily with antibacterial wipes and spray. Suitable toys are put in the dishwasher when necessary and the children are supported to wash their hands regularly.

There were policies in place clearly setting out what was expected when a child has any infectious illness and the childminder's medication policy stated that if a child required any medication other, than Calpol (for teething) or inhalers, they would not be able to attend the setting.

All meals, snacks and personal items were provided by the parents. Any perishable food supplied was sent in a cool bag or with an icepack to negate the need for storage in the childminders personal fridge.

There was a family cat within the setting which was seen during the visit; it seemed friendly and both children appeared to be comfortable and familiar with it being around. Parents were made aware of the cat before their child commenced any sessions and there was evidence that they had signed agreement of this within their contract. It was reported that the cat was fed in an area away from the spaces used with the children.

Assessing risk, safety monitoring and management

The childminder provided a copy of her written risk assessments which demonstrated her ability to identified potential hazards and put in place procedures to manage potential risk or harm. It was recorded that all policies and risk assessments had been routinely reviewed, updated and signed accordingly.

Regular weekly checks were recorded for smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and fire drills were carried out termly and well documented. There was a fire risk assessment and evacuation plan in place.

There was evidence that the vehicle used to transport the children was safely maintained and appropriately insured. Within the setting, the boiler service was overdue but scheduled to be done within the next month. All other safety requirements were valid and up to date.

The childminder was not registered with the data protection office as no confidential information was stored electronically. All paper files were kept in a securely locked cupboard.

Inspection Findings

C2 Is the service effective?

Our findings

Effective – this means we looked for evidence that people’s care, treatment and support achieved good outcomes and promoted a good quality of life, based on best available evidence. The service does not require any improvements in this area.

This service was found to be effective.

Children’s care and development needs are assessed, supported and promoted

The childminder provided a variety of toys and activities for the children. The children were encouraged to make choices and play independently as well doing planned activities both within the setting and outside. They attend group activities such as singing Jo’s, jumping jacks and tots groups as well as spending time outdoors in the park and going for walks.

The childminder trained as an early year’s teacher and had a good understanding and knowledge of child development. The child records maintained were linked to EYFS and the childminder reported that she had recently completed further training in Early Years Education.

In the provider information return (PIR) the childminder wrote; “developmental needs are met by differentiating activities which are age and interest appropriate. Children are supported by encouragement, positive praise and by considering what the child enjoys and building their confidence.”

Observations made during the inspection would support the above, with lots of praise and encouragement being heard during the time of the visit.

C3 Is the service caring?

Our findings

Caring – this means we looked for evidence that the service involved people and treated them with compassion, kindness, dignity and respect. The service does not require any improvements in this area.

This service was found to be caring.

Ensuring children are being treated with kindness, respect and compassion, and are given emotional support when needed.

The ages of the children present during inspection were similar and both demanding of time and attention however the childminder was able to manage this well and meet the needs of both children equally. She provided appropriate activities and resources related to their age, interests and ability. She was aware of their likes, dislikes and their personal routines.

Both children appeared to be happy and comfortable with the childminder, approaching her for cuddles and reassurance several times throughout the visit. The childminder chattered naturally with the children and joined in their play, providing lots of praise and positive affirmations which the children responded to with big smiles and laughter.

Maintaining children's privacy, dignity and independence respected.

The childminder provided a copy of her 'Intimate and personal care' policy which was shared with all parents and demonstrated her commitment to maintaining privacy and dignity for the child at all times.

The confidentiality policy provided further evidence of her regard for personal information and the records held about each child. The childminder was not registered with data protection commission due to the fact that only paper records are kept in regard to individuals' personal information. The childminder does not take photographs or share updates about any child by text, messenger, WhatsApp or any other electronic means or social media. All paper records were stored securely.

Due to the range of resources and activities available to the children they have many opportunities to grow and develop their skills and learning which increases their confidence and independence.

Inspection Findings

C4 Is the service responsive?

Our findings:

Responsive – this means we looked for evidence that the service met people’s needs. The service does not require any improvements in this area.

This service was found to be responsive.

Delivering personalised care

The childminder stated that activities are planned on a daily basis, taking into consideration what the children enjoy doing and playing with. There was routine which fits around the children’s nap time and feeding but usually involves an outing or activity group at some point during the day.

Information was requested about each child prior to them starting in regard to their dietary, cultural and medical needs. Parents were asked to inform the childminder if there are change of circumstance.

A daily diary records ‘what the child enjoyed doing today, food (time and what was eaten), nap times, nappy changes and links to EYFS areas of learning and development’. This was shared with the parent’s daily and encouraged parental contribution.

The childminder provided a copy of her equal opportunities policy and stated that she promotes diversity by; “looking at festivals together, supplying books and toys that reflect different cultures. Asking parents to share experiences with me which helps to talk about together.”

If areas of improvement have been identified the provider will be required to produce an action plan detailing how the areas of improvement will be rectified within the timescales identified. The R&I team will follow up and monitor any actions undertaken.