

Elder, Karen Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 5 September 2017

Service provided by:
Elder, Karen

Service provider number:
SP2003908957

Care service number:
CS2003020300

The service

Introduction

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

This service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

Karen Elder provides a small childminding service. Details of registered numbers of children can be found on the certificate of registration for the service. We observed the certificate displayed in the service and confirmed with the childminder that the detail was accurate. At the time of the inspection seven children attended the service. We met one of the minded children during our visit.

The service is provided from the family home in Alva. The areas available were used effectively to provide an excellent range of stimulating activities. Young children had space to move around developing physically and opportunities to explore the world around them. Older children were supported to be imaginative and creative through a well planned programme of activities that took account of their interests and preferences. A welcoming and nurturing environment resulted in children feeling safe, secure and confident in the setting. The childminder responded very well to meet children's individual needs.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people – and what they can do to improve. Getting it Right for Every Child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child. They are: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following a short notice announced inspection. This was carried out by one inspector on Tuesday 9 September 2017. We visited between 09:30 and 13:30. We chatted with the childminder about the service, we chatted with and observed the child in the setting and examined some records. We provided feedback to the childminder at the end of the inspection process.

As part of the inspection, we took account of the annual return and self assessment that we asked the childminder to complete and submit to us. We asked the childminder to distribute Care Standard Questionnaires to parents. Three had been returned at the time of the inspection.

During the inspection we observed the areas used for childminding confirming that the environment was clean, safe and secure, we examined children's care plans that showed us how children's health, wellbeing and safety needs were met and sampled some of the systems that the childminder had in place showing how they managed the service and developed their knowledge and understanding of childcare issues.

Views of people using the service

The young child present was happy and confident in the setting, fully engaged in a range of activities that supported her to achieve. The personal plan highlighted the child's progress and development and agreed next steps. The layout of the environment and the activities provided supported the child's next steps. For example, her physical development was supported through the use of an activity table that enabled the child to pull herself up and walk around the table exploring the activity on top.

Children enjoyed being included in projects and activities that helped them to achieve and activities that enabled them to be creative and use their imagination. Children's achievements were celebrated through praise and encouragement. They were becoming confident as a result.

Three Care Standard Questionnaires were returned giving feedback about the quality of the service. Parents said that communication was effective, keeping them informed about their children's progress. They said that snacks provided were healthy, that children had opportunities to try new healthy foods and that activities taught children about staying safe. Comments included: "Karen is flexible, consistent and reliable. Her practice is child-centred and is always thinking about new and exciting activities...", "... She is professional; friendly; firm yet fair; motherly; reliable; honest... The flexibility in her provision is a life saver to me and my child...".

Self assessment

Every year all care services must complete a 'self assessment' form telling us how their service is performing. We check to make sure this assessment is accurate.

What the service did well

The service should be commended for the high level of support given to children so that they achieve their potential. Personal plans highlighted the progress of children and showed how agreed next steps were achieved through well planned activities that took account of children's preferences.

The space was maximised to meet children's needs and to support them to achieve their potential.

Research into best practice guidance was taken into account when planning and evaluating children's progress. For example, SHANARRI wellbeing indicators and schemas were used to evaluate children's progress and development.

What the service could do better

We discussed how the childminder could further develop self-evaluation in the service. We signposted her to 'How Good is our Early Learning and Childcare' found in the National Improvement Hub to further develop self-evaluation in the setting.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We concluded that the service provided a level of excellent care and support

The service supported children to achieve their potential to an exemplary level. Personal plans highlighted the progress of children and showed how agreed next steps were achieved through well planned activities that took account of children's interests and preferences. Parents were fully involved in developing personal plans that showed how children's health, wellbeing and safety needs were met.

The challenge of engaging parents in the process of reviewing each plan was managed well. This resulted in children's changing needs being taken into account when planning how their next steps would be supported. Parents felt that methods, including daily chats, use of social media and regular meetings kept them fully informed about their children's progress and experiences in the setting. The use of the 'daily connect' app for younger children meant that parents had instant updates about children's routines including nappy changes and sleeps.

The childminder should be commended for the high level of support children received making transitions to nursery and school. The process was handled sensitively with planning that took account of children's learning needs and their feelings. They were challenged with number and word recognition and supported to develop confidence going to toilet and opening any packaging in packed lunch boxes.

The service demonstrated strong practice in supporting children to make healthy lifestyle choices and to be responsible in the setting. Healthy eating was encouraged through experiments that included measuring the levels of salt and sugar in foods and tasting sessions. Children were given a choice of water or milk for snacks and lunch and packed lunches were monitored to ensure that they were healthy. Information about healthy packed lunches was shared with parents. Children treated one another with respect through listening, taking turns and using excellent manners. They were included in activities that encouraged them to try new experiences that increased confidence and self-esteem.

The childminder demonstrated a knowledge and understanding of child protection; administered medication safely and recorded accidents and incidents as required.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 – excellent

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

A nurturing environment met the needs of the children to a very good level.

The space was maximised to meet children's needs and to support them to achieve. The space available allowed younger children to move around playing with a variety of suitable toys and resources available that encouraged curiosity and developed skills. Older children were able to sit around the kitchen table being included in art and craft activities or having snacks.

Children were active outdoors in the garden or in the local community and children visited the library or benefitted from attending various groups. They were engaged in activities that supported them to be creative and imaginative. Children were cared for in a warm and relaxed environment that contributed positively to building their confidence and self-esteem.

We found that children were protected in a safe and secure environment. Parents said that the environment was safe and that a range of appropriate toys and resources were available for children. The childminder was aware of any hazards, taking steps to minimise them and to protect children meeting individual needs and stages of development. The security arrangements that kept children safe included the entrance doors being locked and the garden being fully enclosed. Children were aware of the rules that kept them safe including when walking to and from school, when crossing the road and when playing outdoors. This ensured that they were responsible and that they stayed safe.

The childminder used very good infection control practices including effective hand washing, nappy changing and a cleaning routine to prevent the spread of infection. Best practice guidance 'Infection Prevention and Control in childcare settings (day care and childminding settings)' supported the childminder in her practice. Overall, we found that very good practice supported children to be safe, healthy and responsible in the service.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The service is managed professionally with steps taken to evaluate and improve the quality of the service to a very good level.

The childminder worked in partnership with families involving them in the service. Self evaluation was supported through the use of effective methods to gather parents and children's views. They included the use of social media and questionnaires. Positive feedback was received highlighting that the service met family's needs. As highlighted in Quality of Care and Support, the service should be commended for the high level of support for children to achieve their potential. The process of planning and evaluating children's progress and how they will achieve their next steps was undertaken in partnership with parents and was achieved through well planned activities taking account of children's interests and preferences.

Outcomes for children were evaluated effectively through, for example, the use of the wellbeing indicators. We suggested that the service could include a note of children's evaluations of activities in the record of planning as part of the quality assurance and improvement of the service. We sign posted the childminder to 'How Good is our Early Learning and Childcare' found in the National Improvement Hub to further develop self-evaluation in the setting.

The childminder had a professional attitude to her continued professional development. She had attended training and had researched best practice guidance developing her knowledge and understanding of childcare topics. For example, she had explored 'schemas' what they were and how she could plan activities to support children's learning through play taking account of her learning and had reflected on how she supports children's speech and language development following access to 'Ready to Read' guidance.

The range of policies and procedures were reviewed regularly and developed so that they reflected practice in the service. Parents were aware of the complaint policy but felt that they would be able to discuss any issues with the childminder.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

Complaints

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

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
2 Jun 2015	2	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
24 Jun 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
24 Jun 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
29 Oct 2010	Announced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
1 Dec 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	5 - Very 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 iartras.

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 ਵਿੱਚ 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.