

## Byrne, Karen Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 7 June 2018

**Service provided by:**  
Byrne, Karen

**Service provider number:**  
SP2004916044

**Care service number:**  
CS2004059436

## The service

### Introduction

The childminder provides her childminding service from her home in the village of Invergowrie. The minded children make full use of a living and dining room, kitchen, hallway and upstairs toilet. The children have access to a large, enclosed garden.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. The numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own family. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate. Overnight care will not be provided.

On the day of inspection the childminder was working with three children. We found that the childminder adheres to the conditions of her registration.

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), Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

### What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection between 12:15 and 14:40 on 7 June 2018. We gave feedback to the childminder at the end of the inspection.

We received six completed questionnaires about this service. In addition to the information provided by parents in these questionnaires we gathered information on the service from a range of other sources. These included:

- observation of the children during activities
- observation of the childminder and her interactions with the children in her care
- all about me information
- children's mind maps
- observation of the environment
- discussion with the childminder
- toys and resources
- the childminder's policies
- registration certificate.

## Views of people using the service

During the inspection we saw the childminder working with three children. We could see that they were all very happy, had strong attachments to the childminder and were very much enjoying their play. The children attending told us:

'I like playing in the sprinkler.'

'It's a pie, a mud pie and it's for you.'

'We play dominoes.'

The parents who responded to our questionnaires were extremely positive about the experiences for their children. They all strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care received by their children when using the service. They told us:

'Karen has provided a fantastic service for my child and I. He has developed a strong relationship with her and very much enjoys those few hours at her house. He was able to ask her help to buy me a surprise Christmas present which they did together one afternoon after school - testimony to their relationship and how accommodating Karen is. She continues to be a great support to both of us and I would highly recommend her childminding service.'

'I am extremely happy with the daily routine and activities. Always doing something different. Karen is always on the go with the kids from the local parks, playgroups and soft play areas.'

'My two children are always asking when they are next going to Karen's as they enjoy all the super activities and fun she provides. They also love playing with the other children. Karen is an excellent childminder who goes above and beyond her duties for example by hosting her annual fun day gathering for children and their families in the local park. This is always a lovely, fun get together for all the children.'

'Karen offers a fantastic range and variety of snacks and meals. There is plenty of fruit and vegetables and meals are well-balanced. Children sit at a table and good manners are promoted and encouraged. I have learned from my child about the special fruit and vegetables he has tried and likes and those he doesn't! Karen includes cultural festivals and the foods associated including how to eat them for example, using chopsticks.'

'Karen regularly sends out feedback forms on each of our child's interests and developments and then changes her services (activities, toys, trips) to keep up with their developments.'

'Karen asks what our child would like to explore, especially making sure she does things important to her faith and makes new activities for her to get involved in. She also asks on a regular basis how and what more she can do to ensure our child explores things she is interested in.'

## Self assessment

The childminder had submitted a self assessment. The information contained in this was very helpful during the inspection and in the writing of this report.

The childminder demonstrated, through our observations and discussions, her passion and commitment to providing the very best outcomes for the children in her care.

## What the service did well

The childminder had excellent relationships with the children and families she worked with and fully involved them in the development of the service. She was highly respectful of different cultures and celebrations and created an ethos of respect within her service.

The childminder had an excellent understanding of the benefits of child led play and fully promoted this approach to learning. She provided outstanding opportunities for children to engage in loose parts play and shared with us the positive impact this has had on the children in her care. She was very reflective in her practice and was dedicated and passionate about providing the children in her care with exceptionally high quality experiences.

## What the service could do better

The childminder should maintain the excellent outcomes she provides for the children in her care by keeping up to date with current best practice.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

|                                      |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Quality of care and support          | 6 - Excellent |
| Quality of environment               | 6 - Excellent |
| Quality of staffing                  | not assessed  |
| Quality of management and leadership | 6 - Excellent |

## Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered during the inspection we found that the service was performing to an excellent standard in this area.

The childminder had excellent relationships with the children and families she worked with. She was highly responsive to children's individual needs giving cuddles, reassurance and nurture. She was very respectful and demonstrated a great understanding of children's different cultures and beliefs. The childminder was an extremely positive role model for the children in her care and encouraged the children to explore different cultural festivals together. The ethos she had developed within her service was highly respectful.

The children were fully involved in leading their own play and learning. The childminder discussed with us the value of child led play and we saw that she embedded this extremely well within her setting. She was highly responsive to children's interests and adapted activities to follow these. We saw excellent examples of the childminder asking children questions which challenged their thinking and extended their learning.

The voice of the children was very clear throughout all aspects of the service. For example, children who attended the service after school had created a display around their likes and next steps for learning and children who attended each day chatted with the childminder and completed a 'how was your day?' activity. These were outstanding examples of fully involving children in their own learning, enabling them to participate in identifying their next steps and putting the children first. It was evident that the childminder embedded her understanding of Getting it Right for Every Child into her daily practice which provided excellent outcomes for children.

The childminder had excellent communication with parents and ensured they were fully involved in making decisions about their child's care and support needs. Parents confirmed this and one parent told us: 'I share health visitor reports, nursery progress reports and we then jointly discuss the provision needed for my child's care.'

We looked at the children's personal plans. The childminder had developed her skills in recording observations of children's learning and this had enabled her to identify children's next steps for learning more effectively. She should ensure children's personal plans are signed and dated by parents when they are reviewed every six months.

We discussed child protection and were satisfied with the childminder's knowledge and awareness of her role in protecting children.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 6 - excellent

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered during the inspection we found that the service was performing to an excellent standard in this area. We concluded this after talking with the childminder and looking round the childminder's home.

From our observations we saw that the childminder's home was very welcoming and homely. The childminder thoughtfully considered the space for children to play in and made best use of each area. Children could access a wide range of toys, games, books and loose parts independently which were age and stage appropriate. This gave them excellent opportunities to explore, be creative and challenge their learning.

The children had daily outdoor opportunities to be physically active and enjoy the fresh air. The childminder's garden was used on regular basis and appeared to be safe and secure. It contained a vast range of loose parts resources which provided excellent opportunities for children to be creative, play collaboratively and promote their curiosity. The childminder told us how she had decided to develop her garden by gradually removing the traditional toys outside and introduce loose parts. She had a deep knowledge of the benefits of loose parts play and told us about the difference this had made to the children in her care by developing their problem solving skills and being more engaged in their play. We saw outstandingly high quality play opportunities for children.

The children were fully involved in making decisions about the outings they went on. They went to a variety of places such as Murton Farm, Dundee Science Centre and Active Kids. We looked at mind maps created by the children to risk assess the outings. These were excellent examples of enabling children to consider possible risks and identify actions they could take to keep themselves safe. Children reviewed their trips with the childminder and linked their experiences to the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators. This was highly effective practice which enabled children to be fully involved in decision-making and understanding the world around them.

The childminder told us about regular visits to elderly neighbours and to the nearby sheltered housing complex. The children had developed strong relationships with some of the neighbours and enjoyed spending time with them. The childminder told us about the importance and value of the children developing relationships with people of different ages and the positive impact this had on the children in her care.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 6 - excellent

## Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered during the inspection we found that the service was performing to an excellent standard in this area. We concluded this after talking with the childminder and looking at supporting paperwork and individual records.

The childminder was highly reflective in her practice. She is currently studying an NC in Early Education and Childcare and discussed with us how she has developed a deeper understanding of the theory of child development. We saw excellent evidence of how she had embedded her learning into practice, particularly around children's observations.

The childminder met regularly with other childminders in the local area and was part of a closed social media page for childminders. This enabled her to share practice and gather ideas to continually improve her practice. She kept up to date with developments in childcare through accessing current best practice guidance and clearly demonstrated her knowledge of best practice throughout the inspection.

Children and parents were fully involved in developing the service. The childminder had developed excellent relationships and highly valued their suggestions and ideas. The parents all strongly agreed that the childminder involved them and their child in making improvements to the service. A parent commented: 'Karen always asks for feedback and ideas to make sure that we're happy and that my child has a good time when he is with her and other minded children. She has a questionnaire for feedback but regularly asks for new ideas and suggestions.' The childminder regularly reviewed and updated her policies to reflect current best practice and shared these with parents.

The childminder was dedicated and passionate about providing excellent outcomes for the children in her care. She was motivated, enthusiastic, highly professional and committed to continuously improving her service to provide the very best experiences for the children. We saw evidence of children who were fully involved in leading their own play and learning. The childminder should continue to keep up to date with developments in childcare to enable her to maintain the excellent outcomes she provides for children.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 6 - excellent

**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](http://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                  |               |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 22 Apr 2014 | Unannounced              | Care and support          | 6 - Excellent |
|             |                          | Environment               | 6 - Excellent |
|             |                          | Staffing                  | Not assessed  |
|             |                          | Management and leadership | 6 - Excellent |
| 14 Jun 2010 | Announced                | Care and support          | 5 - Very good |
|             |                          | Environment               | Not assessed  |
|             |                          | Staffing                  | 5 - Very good |
|             |                          | Management and leadership | Not assessed  |
| 12 Feb 2009 | Announced (short notice) | Care and support          | 5 - Very good |
|             |                          | Environment               | 5 - Very good |
|             |                          | Staffing                  | 5 - Very good |
|             |                          | Management and leadership | Not assessed  |



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Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

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