

Beveridge, Julie **Child Minding**

Type of inspection: Announced
Inspection completed on: 31 July 2018

Service provided by:
Beveridge, Julie

Service provider number:
SP2012983887

Care service number:
CS2012310590

The service

Introduction

Mrs Beveridge provides a childminding service from her own home which is located in a residential area within walking distance of local facilities, including the nursery, primary school and play parks. She does not use a car for childminding purposes.

Mrs Beveridge may care for a maximum of 5 children under the age of 16 years, at any given time, of whom no more than 4 are under the age of 12 years and of whom no more than 1 may be under 12 months. These numbers are inclusive of any children of the childminder's family.

There is no restriction on the hours of operation, however, no overnight care may be provided.

Only the ground floor of the home and the front garden may be used for childminding purposes.

At the time of inspection, three children were registered to use the service, one of whom was present during our visit.

What we did during our inspection

We visited unannounced on Wednesday 25 July 2018 to find that the service was not operating at that time. We then made an announced visit to the service on Tuesday 31 July 2018. One inspector was present in the service for approximately 2 hours 15 minutes.

Mrs Beveridge submitted an annual return, as required. She also took the opportunity to submit a self assessment, as part of the inspection process.

We asked Mrs Beveridge to issue questionnaires to any parents using the service, to allow them to comment. To date, we have received one completed questionnaire.

During the inspection visit we gathered evidence from various sources, including:

- discussion with the childminder
- observation of interaction between childminder and minded child
- observation of activities and the environment
- children's records.

We took account of all of the above information when writing this report.

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. (These are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators).

Views of people using the service

We saw that the child who was present was comfortable in the childminder's care. She responded well to Mrs Beveridge's caring approach and was settled and contented throughout our visit.

The parent who submitted a questionnaire confirmed that she was happy with the quality of care. Comments included the following:

"Lots of activities are provided."

"There's a vast amount of games, books and toys."

Self assessment

The self assessment provided an accurate reflection of the service.

What the service did well

Mrs Beveridge has a warm, friendly approach and clearly enjoys the time she spends with the children. She has a good knowledge of the local area and provides regular opportunities for active outdoor play.

What the service could do better

Mrs Beveridge should continue to seek out learning opportunities to help build on her existing skills and knowledge. This, in turn, could help her to improve the quality of the children's experience and further promote their learning.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	3 - Adequate
Quality of environment	3 - Adequate
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	3 - Adequate

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Mrs Beveridge aimed to provide a homely environment in which children could relax and have fun. She interacted well with the young child who was present and we saw that she was at ease in the setting and confident in making her needs and wishes known. Mrs Beveridge communicated well with parents and this contributed towards children's needs being understood and met.

The child who was present attended for only part of the day and usually spent her time at home with the childminder. We saw that she benefited from one to one support. Mrs Beveridge sat at floor level where she could engage with her as she played and provided praise and encouragement as appropriate. The child was learning to talk and Mrs Beveridge spoke to her throughout, which helped promote language development.

Parents generally supplied meals and snacks which they knew their child would enjoy. Fruit was also available and we saw that the child helped herself to an apple from the fruit bowl. Mrs Beveridge responded by placing her in the high chair where she enjoyed the prepared apple and part of the snack brought from home. Mrs Beveridge supervised her carefully as she ate and lifted her out of her chair promptly when she had finished eating. This meant that she had freedom to move around and develop her gross motor skills, while also being able to freely access play materials.

We saw evidence of some of the activities minded children had enjoyed. Mrs Beveridge had involved the older children in growing potatoes, for example, so that they could learn about the process from planting through to harvesting. Mrs Beveridge often asked the children what they would like to do and encouraged them to follow their interests. For example, the older children sometimes asked to use the cycle track at the local community centre and collected their bikes from their garden on the way there. Trips and outings in the local area provided opportunities for children to experience fresh air and exercise and learn about road safety.

Medication could be administered by the childminder, should parents request this. Mrs Beveridge was aware of the importance of obtaining written parental consent and clear dosage instructions. She had a suitable recording system in place. (Further guidance on the management of medication in daycare and childminding settings is available from the Care Inspectorate website.)

Mrs Beveridge knew the children well and impressed as sensitive to their emotional wellbeing. She was aware of her obligation to act on any concerns about the children's welfare and knew who to contact should she require further advice, or need to report a concern. Training or some other form of learning in this area would be helpful in raising Mrs Beveridge's awareness of child protection issues and increasing her knowledge and confidence in this area.

Mrs Beveridge had begun to develop required personal plans for the children. She kept a diary of children's activities for one family and had included some information provided from home which showed that children's progress was being discussed. Monthly summaries had been recorded in respect of the youngest child and were signed by the parent. Mrs Beveridge should build on the progress she has made in this area, in order to demonstrate how children's learning and development are being supported consistently in the service, in consultation with parents.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 3 - adequate

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The accommodation was comfortably furnished and smoke free. The sitting room and hall provided a base for minded children. Play materials were stored where they were easily accessible, so that the children could choose what they wanted to play with. There was adequate space for children to set out their toys and activities; however, care should be taken to ensure that the areas used by the children are not unduly cluttered, as this reduces available play space and can hinder effective risk assessment.

The front garden provided an enclosed outdoor play space. Toys and equipment were taken outside as needed. Mrs Beveridge told us that she was mindful of the concrete surface and the potential for children hurting themselves while playing. We discussed ways in which risk could be minimised.

Mrs Beveridge told us that she enjoyed getting out and about with the children when possible and encouraged fun activities including bug hunts. Her home is in walking distance of Lochore Meadows which provides a diverse environment for the children to explore as well as a playpark where they can extend their physical skills.

We discussed infection control practices. Ms Beveridge confirmed that more effective cleaning routines were now being followed and we saw that areas used by the children were adequately maintained. Nappy changing was understood to be carried out hygienically. Mrs Beveridge asked parents to keep children at home when they were ill. These measures helped to reduce the risk of infection and should contribute towards children's health.

Mrs Beveridge confirmed that there had been no accidents or incidents; however, she was aware of the need to record details of any occurrences and to inform parents about what had happened and any action taken. First aid training would be beneficial in developing Mrs Beveridge's knowledge so that she can respond effectively to any accidents which occur.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 3 - adequate

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

Mrs Beveridge had formed good working relationships with parents and children and provided opportunities for them to share their views about the service. She impressed as willing to accommodate their wishes. A parent described her as "very approachable and easy to talk to."

We encourage childminders to undertake further learning to update their skills and knowledge. This, in turn, can contribute towards improved outcomes for children. Mrs Beveridge had not yet managed to access training; however, she stated that she was keen to do so and had taken steps to find out about funding and the availability of training events in the local area. She hoped to attend training on first aid and food hygiene, for example.

Mrs Beveridge confirmed that she used the internet to support her in her role as a childminder. She was aware of some recent guidance documents which are in place to help ensure positive outcomes for children and we directed her to some further publications. She could make more use of these documents to assess and improve her service and to better promote children's learning and development.

Mrs Beveridge had a broad understanding of regulatory issues. She had submitted information to the Care Inspectorate when asked to do so and was aware of the need to make formal notifications, in certain circumstances. Record keeping was satisfactory. Mrs Beveridge was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) which could provide information, guidance and support when needed.

Mrs Beveridge provided details of her public liability policy. This may provide a degree of protection to herself and to families in the event of any incidents arising.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 3 - adequate

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

Previous requirements

Requirement 1

Mrs Beveridge must ensure that a Disclosure Scotland application is submitted by any member of the household over the age of 16 years who has not previously had such an application processed by the Care Inspectorate.

This is in order to comply with the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 - SSI 210 Regulation 12 (1) and (2) and Regulation 4 (1) - Welfare of service users

Timescale: Four weeks from the date of issue of this report

This requirement was made on 2 August 2017.

Action taken on previous requirement

The outstanding check has been completed satisfactorily.

Met - within timescales

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

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

- (i) Mrs Beveridge should further develop her children's individual plans. These should reflect ways in which children's individual needs and interests are being identified and supported in the service, in consultation with parents.
- (ii) Children's plans should be reviewed no less than every six months and updated as and when necessary.

Reference: National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare - standard 3 - Health and wellbeing; standard 7 - A caring environment, and standard 14 - Well managed service.

This recommendation was made on 2 August 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Mrs Beveridge had made some progress in this area. She had begun to use templates and diaries to record information appropriately. We asked her to continue to develop children's plans in consultation with parents and to ensure that she routinely records evidence that information is being reviewed and updated.

Recommendation 2

- (i) Mrs Beveridge should submit information about the provision of food within her service to the local authority.
- (ii) Any requirements or recommendations imposed in connection with food safety should be addressed.

Reference: National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare – standard 2 – A safe environment and standard 14 – Well managed service

This recommendation was made on 2 August 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Mrs Beveridge confirmed that she had submitted the necessary information to the local authority. She stated that she had been in discussion with a food safety officer about her practices and had read the food safety information provided.

Recommendation 3

Mrs Beveridge should access training or some other form of learning to help her develop her knowledge and skills and increase her understanding of relevant national guidance.

Reference: National Care Standards for Childcare and Education – standard 5 – Quality of experience and standard 14 – Well managed service

This recommendation was made on 2 August 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Mrs Beveridge had not yet attended training and we encouraged her to do so. She was aware of some relevant childcare guidance and we asked her to learn more about this and consider how she might use it in her work with minded children.

Recommendation 4

Mrs Beveridge should obtain written parental consent, when appropriate, for example when children are permitted to walk to school independently, or carry out any other activity outwith Mrs Beveridge's direct supervision.

Reference: National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare – standard 7 – A caring environment and standard 14 – Well managed service

This recommendation was made on 2 August 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Mrs Beveridge had obtained written consent as detailed above.

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 Aug 2017	Unannounced	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 3 - Adequate Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 2 - Weak
2 Dec 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 3 - Adequate Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
2 Sep 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 3 - Adequate Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
25 Aug 2014	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 2 - Weak Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
11 Feb 2014	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 2 - Weak Staffing 3 - Adequate Management and leadership Not assessed

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