

Kirsten's Childminding Service

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 16 August 2018

Service provided by:
Sinclair, Kirsten

Service provider number:
SP2013984550

Care service number:
CS2013315293

The service

Introduction

The childminder provides her childminding service from her home in the village of Errol. The minded children have access to the ground floor only, making full use of a large open plan kitchen and dining room, playroom, hallway and toilet. Patio doors from the kitchen and dining room open directly onto a secure garden area.

The service registered with the Care Inspectorate in 2013 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 six will be under 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

When operating with another childminder in domestic premises the total number of children being cared for by both providers must not exceed six. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate. Overnight service 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 12:55 and 14:55 on 16 August 2018. We gave feedback to the childminder at the end of the inspection.

We received three 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
- 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, enjoying their play and having fun.

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

'My children have been very well cared for - always safe and come home very happy. Kirsten treats them like her own - in a very kind and caring way.'

'Kirsten is always open to new suggestions and actively looks for new things/places to do and go with the children in her care. Kirsten always discusses any changes to her service in advance and I am given the opportunity to respond and discuss'

'Kirsten is a fantastic childminder. She provides my child with exceptional care. He has a fantastic time doing activities. 10 out of 10 for outdoor activities and integrating into the local community.'

'Kirsten involves my child in a range of activities daily which are stimulating and support his learning and development. She schedules these around snacks, meals and nap times.'

Self assessment

The childminder had submitted a very reflective self assessment. The information contained in this was very detailed and included information on how the service met the needs of the children and their families, improvements made to the service and current challenges. The childminder demonstrated, through our observations and discussions, her commitment to providing the best outcomes for the children in her care.

What the service did well

The service provided a caring atmosphere which supported the children to be kind and respectful towards each other. We found that the childminder had a very good understanding of children's individual needs and had developed positive, warm and nurturing relationships with them. The children benefitted from a wide range of daily outdoor play opportunities in the local community.

What the service could do better

We discussed with the childminder further ways to involve children in evaluating the service and suggested how this could be recorded.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
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

From the evidence gathered during the inspection we found that the service was performing to a very good standard in this area.

The childminder had very positive interactions with the children in her care. Throughout the inspection we saw the children and childminder having lots of fun and laughter. The childminder had developed nurturing and warm relationships with the children and provided cuddles and reassurance.

Children were encouraged to be kind and caring towards each other which supported them to develop friendships. The childminder had clear expectations and encouraged the children to follow the house rules. The children responded positively to this. We saw very good examples of the childminder supporting the children to take turns, share and solve problems together.

The childminder worked in partnership with parents. She spoke with the parents on a daily basis and discussed any changes in routine and information on their current interests and activities. A parent commented, 'Kirsten is very approachable and easy to speak to'. Parents were also sent regular photos through a private Whatsapp group. This enabled them to feel included in their child's care.

We looked at children's personal plans. They were updated every six months or sooner if required and detailed information on children's likes, dislikes, interests and routines. The childminder used this information to inform the daily care of the children specific to their individual needs. The personal plans included next steps for the children which were agreed between the parents and the childminder. We discussed with the childminder ways to link children's next steps to the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators. We suggested that the childminder should record how the next steps are reviewed. This would support her with tracking children's development and achievements.

We discussed child protection with the childminder. We were satisfied that the childminder had a very good understanding and awareness of her responsibility and role in protecting children.

Children were offered healthy, well-balanced meals and snacks. We saw that the lunch time experience was relaxed, unhurried and enjoyable. Children were given choice about what they wanted to eat and encouraged to try new foods.

We looked at medication permission and administration forms and were satisfied that they followed current best practice guidance. This ensured children's health, safety and wellbeing needs were met.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

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

The childminder's home was very welcoming for the children and families who used her service. The children made very good use of the space available and had a dedicated playroom where a wide range of toys, books and games were available to choose from. The children enjoyed their snacks and meals at a large table in the kitchen and dining area.

The children used the childminder's garden on a regular basis. The garden was fully enclosed and appeared to be safe and secure. The children were involved in risk assessing the garden, ensuring it was safe to play in. This enabled them to take responsibility and develop their awareness of managing risks. The children enjoyed lots of physical and active play in the garden supporting them to be healthy.

The childminder had an understanding of loose parts play and encouraged children to explore loose parts and natural, open-ended resources when they were out in the local community such as at local parks. We discussed the value of loose parts play to encourage children to be creative, solve problems and promote curiosity and suggested that she could begin to develop this within her own garden and home. We signposted the childminder to documents that would support her to develop loose parts play.

A particular strength of the service was the daily outings in the community. The children were very much involved in the local community and enjoyed going on walks in the countryside to learn about nature and wildlife. On the day of inspection, the children were going out to collect apples and brambles to bake with. The childminder told us that the children also attended a local toddlers group and regularly went to the nearby park and Madoch Centre. The childminder was passionate about ensuring the children had daily outdoor active play opportunities.

The childminder had a very good understanding of the safer sleep guidance. Children all slept in travel cots and had their own bedding. She provided a quiet, comfortable space for each child conducive to quality sleep.

Accidents and incidents were recorded appropriately, including any treatment given to the child. They were shared with parents and carers. A copy was held for the childminder's own records.

We observed a nappy change during the inspection. We reminded the childminder of the importance of wearing a disposable apron to minimise the risk of spreading any infection. We directed her to the Care Inspectorate website where current best practice guidance can be found www.hub.careinspectorate.com.

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

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

The childminder completed a very detailed and reflective self assessment. This demonstrated that she continually reflects on her service to identify ways to improve.

The childminder had identified her ongoing training needs in her self assessment. She had recently attended a baby and child first aid course and has booked onto a number of courses through Perth and Kinross Council's Childcare Strategy Team to refresh her knowledge and keep up-to-date with current best practice. The childminder told us that she is particularly looking forward to attending training on loose parts play to enable her to implement this within her service. We discussed with the childminder how she reflects on what she has learned during training. She told us she incorporates learning from training into her policies and procedures to ensure they are in line with current best practice and uses learning to make improvements to her service.

The childminder also made very good use of the Care Inspectorate HUB and Care News. She regularly met with other childminders in the local area which allowed her to share practice, ideas and engage in professional dialogue. The childminder told us that this was very valuable and provided a network of support.

Parents were given the opportunity to share their views on the service on a daily basis and more formally, through evaluation forms. We looked at a number of evaluation forms completed by parents. They all included extremely positive feedback. The childminder told us that parents would be confident to share any concerns or suggestions directly with her. We found that parents commented on the childminder's approachable nature and that they felt the childminder always listens to them.

We discussed with the childminder how she gathered children's views of the service. The childminder told us that the children would share their thoughts and suggestions verbally. We suggested that the childminder could consider ways to record these conversations and ideas. This would enable children's voice to be more evident in the service evaluation and development.

We saw that the childminder was committed to providing very positive outcomes for the children in her care. She had established strong relationships with the families she worked with. It was evident throughout the inspection that the children loved playing with the childminder, having fun and laughter. The childminder should now act on the improvements discussed during this inspection to further develop and improve her service.

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

Recommendation 1

We would recommend that the childminder prepares and carries out risk assessments for outings and activities that take place.

National Care Standards, Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 2, A Safe Environment and Standard 3, Health and Wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 4 September 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had implemented detailed risk assessments which were reviewed and updated on a regular basis. This recommendation has been met.

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
29 Aug 2014	Announced (short notice)	Care and support
		Environment
		Staffing
		Management and leadership
		5 - Very good
		5 - Very good
		Not assessed
		5 - Very good

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Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

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