

S Herries Childcare Child Minding

Newton Stewart

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
28 June 2021

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2019990502

Service no:
CS2019374645

About the service

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives. The Care Inspectorate has an important role to play in supporting this approach in inspecting care services for children.

The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. It's a consistent way for people to work with all children and young people. The approach helps practitioners focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people – and how they can act to deliver these improvements. Getting it right for every child is being threaded through all existing policy, practice, strategy and legislation affecting children, young people and their families.

In Scotland, the Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) approach puts wellbeing at the very heart of its approach. The eight 'indicators' of wellbeing that form the basis of GIRFEC are– safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included – often referred to as 'SHANARRI'.

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 2 August 2019.

S Herries is registered to provide a childminding service. The service is registered to care for maximum of 6 children at any one time up to the age of 16 years, of whom no more than 3 are not yet of an age to attend primary school, and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The service is located in Wigtown. The childminder provides her service from her home, which has a secure, well resourced garden. The childminder's home is within easy walking distance of schools, shops and parks.

On the day of the inspection, there were three young minded children present. The children were relaxed and settled in the childminder's care.

The childminder aims to provide an inclusive service, accessible to all children in the community, where each child is safe, happy and secure allowing them to develop and learn through play.

What people told us

The children present appeared to enjoy playing with the toys available to them. They chose to play in the garden, where they took part in energetic games and activities together. The children appeared secure and confident in the childminder's care.

Parents told us that they thought the childminder was "absolutely brilliant". They were confident that their children were safe and well cared for. They told us that they had been kept up to date throughout the pandemic and were aware of what to expect from the service. They told us that their children now routinely washed their hands at home and enjoyed doing it. They described sensitive settling procedures which enabled the childminder to get to know their children. All parents told us about the way their children were developing skills and how much their speech had improved over the last year.

Parents were confident that they could share information with the childminder and told us that their childminder was very easy to get on with. They found the regular update messages and photographs of their children reassuring because they could see that their child was settled, busy and happy.

Parents trusted the childminder with their child. They said: "You need to feel comfortable when you send your child to someone - she's amazing."

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	4 - Good
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Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?

4 - Good

Quality indicator 5.1: Children's Health and Wellbeing are supported and safeguarded during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- Children are nurtured and supported throughout their changed experience in their early learning and childcare setting.
- Effective communication with families enables responsive care to support children through changing circumstances.

Children were being cared for in a warm, friendly home environment. The childminder had formed bonds with the children in her care and worked in partnership with parents to ensure that the children's needs were being met. Parents felt well informed about how the childminding service had adapted to Covid-19 and about their children's progress. The childminder made good use of digital technology and used a variety of messaging apps to share information with parents daily. Parents told us that they felt reassured and confident that their children were happy and safe and that they could easily share information with the childminder.

The childminder knew the children very well and had gathered written information about them. Parents told us that she was able to read their body language and understand their needs even when they could not tell her what they wanted. All children had personal folders which contained the information the childminder needed to support children and their needs effectively. She was at the early stages of recording and using observations to plan for children's interests and development. We discussed how to develop these further, so that they were more streamlined and relevant to the needs of individual children.

Throughout lockdown, the childminder had provided support for all the children and their families using her service. As well as remaining open for the children of keyworkers the childminder had kept in touch with the other families, for example by meeting them at the park. Keeping in touch and up to date with changes meant that all children had settled back into her service easily. Parents and children had adapted well to changes in the service, for example meeting outdoors, wearing masks and very regular handwashing. The childminder had introduced fun activities to encourage the children to wash their hands more often. She had also found a time capsule activity booklet which provided activities for children to explore how they felt and helped them to understand what was happening.

Children had regular, daily opportunities to be outdoors. They went for walks in the local community and played a variety of games in the well-resourced garden. During our visit, the childminder consulted the children and we saw that they were confident about making choices, which included going outside. The childminder had a wide variety of easily cleaned toys and games for the children. We also discussed how to reintroduce activities like play doh safely so that children continue to experience a wide variety of learning opportunities.

The childminder had attended virtual training opportunities including Infection Control and Child Protection. Whilst she was aware of her responsibilities for protecting children from harm, she was not fully confident about the procedures to follow if she had cause to be concerned. We have suggested that she attend regular refresher sessions for Child Protection as well as child development training which will support her to formally plan for children's needs and interests. See area for improvement 1.

Quality indicator 5.2: Infection Prevention and Control Practices support a Safe Environment for Children and Staff.

- Children are protected as staff take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection.

The childminder had a very confident understanding of Covid-19 guidance regarding infection prevention and control and had introduced a wide variety of measures to ensure that her home was a safe environment for children. The childminder had attended an online training opportunity, which she found helpful and supported her to feel confident that she was keeping her home safe.

The childminder had developed policies, procedures and risk assessments to take account of guidance and had shared these with parents. This meant that parents knew what to expect when they arrived at her home. Parents told us about the safety measures and changes which had been put in place following lockdown which included wearing masks, keeping socially distant and not entering the childminder's home. Parents were confident that their children were safe whilst in the childminder's care. Appropriate procedures were in place for managing illness. The childminder was clear about the signs and symptoms relating to COVID-19 and when children should not attend the service. Information had been shared with parents about COVID-19 symptoms and isolation periods. All parents understood that their child could not attend the service if they were showing any symptoms.

Enhanced cleaning procedures were in place and the childminder ensured that her home was cleaned regularly and frequently. The childminder understood the need for natural ventilation and kept the windows open to ensure children had access to fresh air throughout the day. Children played outdoors and went for regular walks in the community every day. Children were supported to wash their hands very well and the childminder had introduced fun ways of ensuring that they did this regularly. Paper towels were available for children and we have asked the childminder to ensure that these are kept so that the children can use them independently.

Areas for improvement

1. Children should be cared for and supported by people who are confident and skilled in their practice. The childminder should continue to work towards developing confidence in areas like Child Protection and children's all round development by attending regular refresher training and opportunities to discuss practice with peers.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that "I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes. " (HSCS 3.14)

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	4 - Good
5.1 Children's health and well being are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19	4 - Good
5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff	5 - Very Good

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