

Kayleigh's Childminding Service

Child Minding

Elgin

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
14 June 2021

Service provided by:
Kayleigh McCartney

Service provider number:
SP2019990578

Service no:
CS2019375453

About the service

Kayleigh's Childminding Service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school, and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

We carried out a site visit to the service on 1 June 2021 and completed the inspection using the telephone to seek the views of parents, and viewed written documentation electronically.

This was a focused inspection to evaluate how well children were being supported during the Covid-19 pandemic. We evaluated the service based on key areas that are vital to the support and wellbeing of children experiencing care during the pandemic. The inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

The childminder's home is situated in a residential area located towards the edge of a town. It is within walking distance of local amenities such as play parks and school.

The aims and objectives include:

- provide a warm and safe service that enables children to feel they are safe and are in a homely setting
- provide a happy place where parents feel comfortable to leave their children knowing that they are in a safe place
- be a reliable service that is able to cater for different needs
- to provide a service that will cater to the service users' needs in a homely setting where they feel comfortable to reach their inspired goals.

What people told us

Parents told us that they had every confidence in the service provided by the childminder. They had been provided with relevant information from the start and had been kept well up to date with the changes related to Covid-19. Settling in procedures had helped to provide reassurance and relieve any anxieties. Parents appreciated the verbal updates and photographs of their children having fun and trying different things, babies enjoying sensory play when painting, and outdoor activities such as visiting the beach and feeding chickens.

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

5.1: Children's health and wellbeing are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19
 - 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.

The childminder had operated a minimal service during lockdown. They had shared information about the changes related to Covid-19 with parents which helped to provide a level of reassurance and confidence.

Sensitive settling-in arrangements had been put in place for new children, so that they got to know the childminder and felt safe and secure in their new environment. The childminder had completed an introduction to child protection training. This had helped them to have some understanding of safeguarding children. We suggested completing training provided by the council would offer an understanding of local procedures.

The childminder had gathered information about the child recorded in the personal care plan, helping them to be responsive to need. The childminder was aware that there needed to be a regular system for review so that all information related to the child was kept up to date. We suggested that for very young children, review should be more frequent as needs were likely to change quite quickly. It would also be beneficial for conversations with parents regarding their child's needs, such as, potty training, behaviour strategies, to be recorded, supporting consistency of care. We also referred the childminder to the guidance document, realising the ambition, with particular reference to section 3.

Parents told us that the childminder communicated clearly with them from the start. All relevant documentation had been shared in a welcome pack which had also been clearly explained. A variety of communication methods such as an electronic application, text and face to face helped parents to feel well informed.

The friendly and nurturing approach of the childminder toward the children helped them to feel happy and secure. When a toddler was upset, the childminder's knowledge of the child helped them to know how best to respond. They spoke softly and in a calm manner and gave physical comfort to settle the child, as a result, they soon felt assured and able to play again. Children made cups of tea in the play kitchen, matching games and construction, and sat for a while looking at books. Play in the garden included creative play in the mud kitchen, digging and looking for bugs amongst the plants. The childminder supported children well throughout whilst enabling them to develop their own skills through repetitive play and exploration.

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 developed written procedures and risk assessments based on national guidance. This had helped them to become familiar with and deliver a consistent approach to their practice. We suggested that the childminder continued to check and record the latest update of the guidance and amend the risk assessment and Covid-19 policy accordingly.

Children were being cared for in a clean and well-maintained environment to support their safety and wellbeing. The childminder had developed cleaning routines that took account of additional measures to reduce the potential for infection. Such as the prompt removal of toys touched by a child's mouth so that they could be cleaned before being used again.

The childminder followed practice that supported good hygiene, such as washing their hands before children had their snack. Children washed their hands after outdoor play and before snack; this was supervised by the childminder and children had their own individual hand towels. We advised the childminder that children should also wash their hand after eating as best practice. (Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings (Day Care and Childminding Settings) - hub.careinspectorate.com)

Practice within the service had been adapted so that adults did not enter the home and physical distancing was being maintained. Families had been kept informed of and reminded about the arrangements such as wearing a mask when close contact such as handing over a child took place.

The childminder had Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for personal care and cleaning routines. Appropriate facilities to isolate children who may be unwell were also in place. Clear expectations of children remaining at home when unwell and the Test & Protect programme were readily shared with parents/carers, as part of the necessary precautions to keep everyone safe.

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	4 - Good

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