

Ricki's Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 2 August 2021

Service provided by:
Ricki McCloy

Service provider number:
SP2017989030

Care service number:
CS2017356237

Introduction

This childminding service, known as Ricki's Childminding, was registered by the Care Inspectorate on 11 July 2017.

The service is provided by Ricki McLoy, from her family home in a residential area of Darvel, in East Ayrshire. Mrs McLoy uses accommodation on the ground floor, including a designated playroom, living room and kitchen for childminding purposes. Children have access to a downstairs toilet.

The childminder is registered to care for 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.

The childminder's back garden cannot currently be used for childminding.

A summary of the childminder's aims were to:

'Provide a happy, caring, warm and friendly environment which enables children to learn and have fun. The childminder also aimed to work in close partnership with parents.'

A full statement of aims and objectives is available from the childminder.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this inspection report following an unannounced visit to the childminder's home on the morning of 26 July 2021, between 10:00 and 11:30. The inspection was carried out by one early years inspector for the Care Inspectorate.

During this inspection we spoke to the childminder, the child who was present and two parents (by telephone). We observed the care given by the childminder and looked at a number of documents including health and safety records, personal plans and training records.

As part of this inspection, we took into consideration Key Question 5 - Operating an early learning and childcare setting (including out of school care and childminders) during Covid-19 with a specific focus on Quality indicator 5.2: Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff. We will report on the overall performance of this indicator in Theme 1 Quality Care and Support.

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.

Views of people using the service

The child who was present during the inspection told us that he enjoyed going to the service and that he had friends there. We spoke to two parents who were happy with every aspect of the service. They felt there was always plenty for their children to do and that their children enjoyed the company of their friends. Parents felt that the childminder communicated effectively with them about their children's experiences, and, more recently, how she was keeping them safe during the pandemic.

Self assessment

We did not request a self assessment prior to this inspection.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a child centred, happy and relaxed environment for children. The premises and equipment were clean and well maintained and there was a good range of resources. Children played outdoors daily and enjoyed visits in the local community.

What the service could do better

We have recommended that the childminder updates her risk assessments in line with current guidance relating to Covid-19 and that she ensures records of personal plan reviews are recorded at least every six months.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder provided good care and support for children.

The childminder had developed positive relationships with parents. She communicated effectively with them to meet their children's individual needs. Parents told us they were happy with the types and frequency of communication. They felt that daily discussions and discussion around children's transitions helped ensure they were fully involved in making decisions about their children's care.

The childminder knew children well and provided experiences that were planned to reflect their individual interests and to support their learning and development. She demonstrated that she was skilled and knowledgeable in her approach to providing an environment in which children could lead their own learning. Children had lots of opportunities to make decisions about their care and experiences.

The childminder had personal plans in place for all children. She recognised that there was potential to develop these to more accurately reflect what she knew about children's care and learning needs and to ensure that reviews were recorded appropriately. Please refer to recommendation 1.

Children were effectively supported to make healthy choices and develop good lifestyle habits.

The childminder not provide meals but did provide healthy snacks and followed best practice guidance when storing and preparing children's packed lunches.

The childminder's outdoor area was undergoing work and was not currently suitable for children's play. The childminder ensured that children benefitted from daily access to an outdoor play and a natural environment through regular and planned access to outdoor areas within the local community.

The childminder was aware of her role and responsibilities in ensuring children were safe and protected from harm and abuse. She had not recently accessed training relating to child protection, however, this was planned in the near future. The childminder supported children to learn about being responsible and safe through a range of play based approaches. These arrangements helped to safeguard children.

Overall, we were satisfied that the childminder had appropriate measures in place to limit the risk of the spread of infection. We discussed some aspects that needed to be improved and have made a recommendation within the environment section of this report.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. We recommend that the childminder records relevant information and develops written personal plans for all of the children in her care. These should be reviewed, with input from parents and children (where appropriate), at least every six months. Children's plans should be individual and follow the GIRFEC principles and the SHANARRI well-being indicators to ensure all aspects of children's care are discussed.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that "my personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices" (HSCS 1.15).

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder provided a good environment to ensure children's safety and to support them to be active and achieve their potential.

Children benefitted from a stimulating, child-centred and homely environment. Children were fully engaged in their play throughout our inspection. Access to a wide range of good quality toys and resources and experiences that were planned to meet their needs and interests meant that they enjoyed being in the childminder's environment and developed their skills and knowledge through play.

A designated playroom was well planned and resourced to meet children's needs. This included a comfortable sofa for the children to relax on and a table and chairs for table based activities such as arts and crafts and homework. The childminder had considered the layout of her room creating a warm, nurturing environment that made good use of the space available.

Children also had access to the family living room, which provided an alternative relaxing and homely space. A parent told us that her child enjoyed activities before they went to school in the morning, meaning that they were never bored at the service.

As previously noted the childminder's garden was not suitable for outdoor play. Good alternative arrangements meant that children could play energetically and challenge themselves through risky play.

The childminder had not recently reviewed and updated her risk assessment relating to Covid-19. Please refer to recommendation 1.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. We recommend that the childminder reviews and updates risk assessments in relation to the measures that will be taken to mitigate the risk of the spread of infection during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that "My environment is secure and safe" (HSCS 5.17).

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The childminder had good management and leadership arrangements.

She told us how she kept up-to-date with best practice and legislation through a range of approaches. This included her membership of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA), from whom she received regular updates and regular access to the Care Inspectorate's HUB.

We provided the childminder with a link to access the Bite Sized sessions on the HUB, which she felt would support her self evaluation practice. The childminder told us about current best practice documents she was reading, and how she planned to continue her professional development going forward. We felt that the childminder had been responsible for ensuring she maintained current skills and knowledge.

The childminder had not undertaken training in relation to child protection or first aid for some time. We discussed the various ways that this could be accessed within the current Covid-19 restrictions, and suggested that the childminder seeks online training opportunities.

The childminder evaluated her service on a regular basis and consulted with parents and children through planned approaches including the use of questionnaires. The childminder welcomed feedback that supported the continued development of her service.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - 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

The childminder should obtain written parental consent for minded children's contact with the family pet dog.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that; My care and support is provided in a planned and safe way (HSCS 4.14).

This recommendation was made on 17 October 2018.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had accessed written parental consent for minded children's contact with the family dog. This recommendation is 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
17 Sep 2018	Unannounced	Care and support
		4 - Good
		Environment
		4 - Good
		Staffing
		Not assessed
		Management and leadership
		4 - Good

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.