

Kerry Brodie Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 18 August 2021

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2018990268

Care service number:
CS2018371471

Introduction

The service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 26 February 2019.

The childminding service is located in Drymen, Glasgow. The service is situated close to local amenities such as shops, parks, woodland and the local nursery and primary school. The children have access to the lounge, bathroom and front garden.

The service is provided by Kerry Brodie and is registered 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 three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own family.

The aims and objectives for the service were to offer a home from home environment making sure children feel happy and content.

A full statement of aims and objectives are available from the service on request.

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 of 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.

What we did during our inspection

We carried out an unannounced inspection of Kerry Brodie Childminding on Monday 9 August 2021. Feedback was given on Wednesday 18 August 2021. The inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

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 sent an email via the childminder to families using the service asking them to provide us with feedback about their experience of using the service. One family responded to our request.

During the onsite visit we gathered evidence from several sources including the following:

We spoke with:

- children present
- the childminder.

We observed and viewed:

- the environment
- the childminder's practice and interactions with children
- the children playing.

We looked at the following evidence:

- children's personal plans
- policies and procedures
- documents relating to administration of medication, accidents and incidents and child protection
- registration certificate
- public liability insurance certificate

Views of people using the service

There was one child present at the time of the inspection and the childminder's own children. We observed children enjoying their play both indoors and outdoors and they were happy and confident in the service. The children were happy to talk to us and told us they enjoyed using the art materials the most. They enjoyed telling us about their adventures in the local woods where they go to look for tadpoles and how much they enjoyed playing at the park.

One family responded to our request for feedback. They were satisfied by the level of care their child received and appreciated the childminder's open and honest communication. They felt confident their child was receiving new and positive experiences when attending the service.

Self assessment

We did not ask the service to complete a self assessment prior to the inspection.

What the service did well

The childminder had developed positive relationships with children in their care and knew them well. The care provided was flexible to support the individual needs of families.

Interactions between children and the childminder were gentle, nurturing and responsive. Children were given the opportunity to show and discuss their needs, wants and wishes, showing their rights were respected. The childminder promoted gender equality in the children's play which helps children gain self-confidence and supports them to shape how they see themselves and others as they grow up.

What the service could do better

The childminder should ensure they provide a safe, clean and hygienic environment by maintaining enhanced cleaning routines and ensuring risk assessments are updated. Current infection control procedures and measures in line with Scottish Government guidance should also be reviewed, such as enhanced hand washing.

Information in children's personal plans and how it is being used should be reviewed. The plans should demonstrate how children's needs and next steps are being identified and supported in the service, in consultation with parents.

The childminder should access a range of training opportunities to develop knowledge and ensure that relevant documentation is regularly completed and updated to support and meet the individual needs of the children in their care.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
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

The childminder knew children well and talked confidently about their interests and personalities. They interacted with the minded child in a positive and respectful way. The natural and relaxed interactions showed us the child was comfortable and happy in their care. A responsive approach where the childminder responded well to non verbal cues from the child showed children were respected and valued.

Children were observed being independent in their play and were given opportunities to make choices about what they played with. The minded child choose to draw and asked the childminder to join in. They used small glass beads to design a picture and the childminder recognised the achievement in the creation and asked if a photo could be taken to share with their parents. This meant parents were included in their child's day. Further consideration of the resources available, could give children more opportunities to challenge learning and further develop problem solving skills and creativity. We suggested the 'Loose Parts Play Toolkit' would extend the opportunities available for the activities we observed.

Personal plans had been created for children. After discussion, we identified some of the information to support children to learn and achieve was shared verbally. We advised the childminder that this should be recorded in the personal plan. For example, changes in children's individual circumstances with details of how to offer appropriate care and support. The childminder stated they had a better understanding of what to include in the personal plans and will continue to develop them, ensuring children and parents are involved. See recommendation one.

The childminder was confident about their role and responsibilities for protecting children and keeping them safe. They spoke confidently about their role and the action they would take if there were any concerns about a child's health or welfare. This ensured children were kept safe and would allow the childminder to respond to any concerns in a timely and sensitive manner.

We identified areas for improvement in respect of infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children. This included inconsistent hand washing and general cleanliness of the environment. We have therefore reported on these areas with the quality of environment.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The childminder should support children's continued health, wellbeing and safety by updating information held on minded children at least every six months or sooner if needed.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards 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 was able to demonstrate their awareness and understanding of current Scottish Government guidance in relation to infection prevention and control measures and had developed a COVID-19 policy. However, some measures that were put in place during the pandemic to ensure the health and wellbeing of the children, such as enhanced cleaning and handwashing, were no longer evident. We asked the childminder to remove some unnecessary items from the area used for childminding to ensure children could easily access resources that were appropriate for their age and stage of development and matched their current interests. We asked for all resources used for childminding and all areas that were used to be thoroughly cleaned and organised to ensure the health and wellbeing of children. This was completed by the end of the inspection. See recommendation one.

The childminder had pet house rabbits and a cat in the home. Having a pet to care for supported children's social development and helped them to be responsible and caring. A pet policy was in place. The childminder should ensure risk assessments and measures in their policy are followed to ensure children are safe and healthy around pets. For example, the litter trays and feeding bowls should be kept out of reach of children. The garden contained some items that were used for the pet rabbits. The childminder should consider how items not for children's use are stored to support keeping children safe when using the garden.

There were opportunities for children to play outdoors in the front garden and the children enjoyed telling us about their frequent adventures to the local woods and the park. There were some resources for children to use in the garden, such as balls and a trampoline. The child present during our inspection demonstrated awareness of how to keep themselves safe whilst using the trampoline. It was evident the childminder had taken time to ensure children risk assessed when they were outdoors. This supported children to identify and respond to risks which allowed them to problem solve and challenge themselves in a supervised environment.

Risk assessments had been developed to identify and reduce potential risks. Some of these however were not working as planned in the service. This compromised the safety of the environment for children. The childminder agreed to revisit the risk assessments and update them to reflect the way the service was operating. See recommendation two.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. In order to ensure children are cared for in an appropriate, clean and hygienic environment, the childminder must ensure acceptable standards for cleaning and hygiene are in place. Cleaning routines and procedures must be implemented to comply with Health Protection Scotland's guidance 'Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings (Daycare and Childminding settings)'.

This is in order to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that "I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well maintained premises, furnishings and equipment" (HSCS 5.22).

2. In order to ensure that children's health, safety and wellbeing is not compromised, the childminder should ensure risk assessments are effective and working as planned to support effective practice and maintain a safe environment. These should be clear and easily understood by all people involved.

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

Grade: 3 - adequate

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The childminder shared paperwork they had in place which included children's personal plans, policies and procedures and risk assessments. The policies and procedures were able to give families an understanding of how the service operated. These had been updated to reflect the changes in the service during COVID-19.

Information about the service and opportunities for children, were shared verbally by the childminder with children and families. The childminder agreed to consider how they could develop a more formal approach to evaluating the service, including involving children and families in assessing and improving the service. To support the development of the service we highlighted the importance of reflective practice. We advised the childminder to review the Quality Framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged childcare, to develop self-evaluation processes. See recommendation one.

The childminder discussed how they had kept up to date with government guidance by accessing the Care Inspectorate and Scottish Government websites. They were able to demonstrate their knowledge of some key childhood frameworks, such as GIRFEC and the eight wellbeing indicators. Further training updates would benefit and develop their knowledge and understanding and support the opportunities available to the children. We asked the childminder to record training or research they had completed and how it had supported the development of the service. See recommendation two.

Registration had been gained from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) which is an independent authority to promote data privacy for individuals. This demonstrated the childminder respected families privacy and their rights to the information they provided.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. The childminder should develop quality assurance systems to evaluate their service. Best practice guidance documents should be used which will help identify what they do well and areas for development. Consideration should also be given to how they will gather and include feedback from children and parents in this process.

This ensures that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that, "I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes" (HSCS 4.19).

2. The childminder should continue to identify training and current best practice guidance that will help their professional development and promote the development of the service so children have positive outcomes.

This ensures that 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).

Grade: 3 - adequate

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 provider should develop her awareness of best practice in early learning and childcare through engaging with relevant documents and seeking further development opportunities. This will allow her to develop as a professional and make changes to meet the needs of the children in her care.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that "I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes" (HSCS 4.19).

This recommendation was made on 30 July 2020.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder demonstrated some awareness of relevant childhood frameworks but they had not yet impacted on practice.

This recommendation has been carried forward into this report.

Recommendation 2

The provider should maintain accurate and up to date registers of children's attendance at all times to confirm working within ratios and support children's safety in the event of an emergency. This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that "I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed" (HSCS 4.23).

This recommendation was made on 30 July 2020.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder was now recording relevant information for children's attendance. They should ensure this practice is maintained.

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
25 Feb 2020	Announced (short notice)	Care and support
		Environment
		Staffing
		4 - Good
		4 - Good
		Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate

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