

Berry, Karen Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 5 August 2021

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2004924927

Care service number:
CS2003045042

Introduction

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

Karen Berry runs a childminding service from her family home within the Paisley area of Renfrewshire. The service is provided from a detached villa, with children having access to the ground floor and back door area only.

Current registration allows the childminder:

To provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of 6 will be under 12, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school (except on a Monday where 4 children can be present from 12pm to 2pm, the childminder must revert back to 3 children when one child leaves) and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced site visit inspection, which took place on 2 August 2021

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.

During this inspection process we gathered evidence from various sources, including the following:

Discussion with the childminder and observations of three children who were present during the visit.

We considered the service's:

- aims and objectives
- certificate of registration
- a range of policies and procedures

We took the findings from the above into account for the purpose of reporting.

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 well being 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.

Views of people using the service

We chatted with the two eldest of the three children. They were able to tell us how much they enjoyed being at the childminder's.

They described some of the fun activities they had participated in over the summer holidays, including den building, visiting the local wooded area to feed the ducks and swans and playing in the back garden.

Self assessment

A self assessment was not requested as part of this inspection visit.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a homely, nurturing environment for children. She knew the individual needs, preferences and personalities of each child in her care and ensured children and their families felt welcome, respected and included in her service.

What the service could do better

Children's personal plans must be developed to ensure they identify their individual needs and how these will be met. The childminder must ensure that all personal plans are reviewed every six months or sooner if required.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	3 - Adequate
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	3 - Adequate

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We observed the children to be happy, relaxed and content. The childminder knew them well and was responsive to their needs throughout our visit. She interacted with them in a positive, nurturing way, providing them with comfort and reassurance when needed. Children received praise and encouragement. This supported children to develop confidence and positive self-esteem.

The childminder had established effective working relationships with the families who used her service. She had done this mostly through day-to-day exchanges supported by text messaging when required. We observed the childminder chat with and support the children in her care, and we noted that children knew her well and were comfortable in her home.

The childminder had recorded mandatory and additional information on each minded child, and she was aware of the need to compile written personal plans for each child in her care.

However, a number of personal circumstances had resulted in the childminder not managing to maintain personal plans with the necessary details or review them within required timescales. (See recommendation 1)

The childminder was aware of her role in making sure that the children were active. She offered regular opportunities for outdoor play. The childminder did not presently care for anyone requiring regular medication, however she confirmed she would follow current best practice guidance if medication was required. This ensured children's health, safety and wellbeing needs were met.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. To support the care needs and wellbeing of children, the childminder should ensure that children's personal plan information is fully completed. Personal plans should be reviewed a minimum of once every six months in consultation with parents and a record of this kept.

Personal plan information should also be expanded upon to take into account the SHANARRI (safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included) wellbeing indicators.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state:

1.15 My personal plan is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices.

Grade: 3 - adequate

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder had created a pleasant and welcoming environment. It was noted as being bright, attractive and fresh. Children had access to all areas on the ground floor, including a back garden area.

We saw that her home was clean and she described the additional and enhanced cleaning measures she had put in place for toys and other frequently touched points like door handles.

She had introduced other procedures including not allowing parents into her home, physical distancing and wearing a mask when talking to other adults. Hand-sanitiser and personal protective equipment were on hand for the childminder to use.

The childminder's home was well ventilated, and she made sure that children were outdoors as much as possible. The childminder had removed soft furnishings like cushions and throws, which also reduced opportunities for the virus to spread. Children had easy access to a separate downstairs wash room, which meant that they were routinely washing their hands throughout the day. Paper towels were provided for drying their hands. These procedures contributed to controlling the spread of infection during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The childminder told us she carried out a visual check of the premises on a daily basis. The childminder also advised that she had completed written risk assessments for outings and for the premises.

She also confirmed toys and equipment were cleaned regularly with suitable sanitizer. This helped ensure the premises and resources were clean and hygienic for children's use

The childminder knew about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and made sure that parents were also aware of them. She had procedures in place if a child should become unwell. She had also provided parents with the relevant information about their children's health and they knew that they should not attend if the child was unwell.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The childminder engaged well with the inspection process. She was open and responsive to our advice and suggestions throughout the inspection and took some steps to address the areas we identified that could be improved.

Parents and carers were kept well-informed about the care of their child. The childminder shared information about the care of the children through daily conversations and text messages. The childminder told us parents responded positively to this and often commented on their child's experiences which enabled them to feel included in their child's care.

The childminder understood her responsibility to protect children from harm. She was aware of signs that could indicate children were at risk and knew who to report any concerns to. This contributed to keeping children safe. The childminder should refer to Coronavirus (COVID-19): supplementary national child protection guidance (Scottish Government, March 2020). This guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-supplementary-national-childprotectionguidance/>

The childminder told us she was keen to participate in training to further develop her skills and keep abreast of current developments in promoting positive outcomes for children. Since her last inspection she had completed Child Protection and First Aid.

The childminder should continue with plans to identify and participate in training that will further develop her skills. We discussed the importance and benefit of accessing professional learning and training. We have asked the childminder to continue to seek training and professional learning opportunities.

We have included links to relevant documents which could support the childminder to further develop how she evaluates her service and plans for improvement.

References:

Your Childminding Journey available at www.childmindingjourney.scot

My Childminding Experience available at hub.careinspectorate.com

How good is our early learning and childcare? (self-evaluation document) available at www.education.gov.scot

National Health and Social Care Standards available at www.newcarestandards.scot

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 3 - adequate

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

Requirement 1

The childminder must ensure she is operating her service within the conditions as detailed on her Certificate of Registration:

Timescale for meeting this requirement: with immediate effect.

It is also necessary to comply with The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (Scottish Statutory Instruments 2011/210) Regulation 4(1)(a)

This requirement was made on 14 August 2019.

Action taken on previous requirement

Since the last inspection, the childminder had maintained her service within the conditions of registration.

Met - within timescales

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

To support the care needs and wellbeing of children, the childminder should ensure that children's personal plan information is fully completed. Personal plans should be reviewed a minimum of once every six months in consultation with parents and a record of this kept. Personal plan information should also be expanded upon to take into account the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state "My personal 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)

This recommendation was made on 20 December 2018.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had not addressed this recommendation. We have provided guidance and reference materials to support the childminder to develop personal plans. However, the recommendation has been carried over to this inspection report.

Recommendation 2

To support children's health, welfare and safety, the childminder should complete training in relevant childcare areas.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state "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)

This recommendation was made on 20 December 2018.

Action taken on previous recommendation

This recommendation had not been addressed and has been carried over to this inspection report.

Recommendation 3

To support the care needs and wellbeing of children, the childminder should ensure that children's personal plan information is fully completed. Personal plans should be reviewed a minimum of once every six months in consultation with parents and a record of this kept. Personal plan information should also be expanded upon to take into account the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state "My personal 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)

This recommendation was made on 14 August 2019.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Due to personal unforeseen circumstances, the childminder had not maintained person plans for each child. We have therefore carried this recommendation forward.

Recommendation 4

To support children's safety and wellbeing, the childminder should complete child protection training.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state "I am protected from harm, neglect, abuse, bullying and exploitation by people who have a clear understanding of their responsibilities" (HSCS 3.20) and "I am protected from harm because people are alert and respond to signs of significant deterioration in my health and well-being, that I may be unhappy or may be at risk of harm" (HSCS 3.21)

This recommendation was made on 14 August 2019.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had completed an appropriate course relating to child protection and safeguarding.

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
20 May 2019	Unannounced	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 4 - Good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
18 May 2018	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
25 Apr 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 4 - Good
26 Apr 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 3 - Adequate Management and leadership Not assessed
31 May 2012	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 3 - Adequate Staffing 3 - Adequate Management and leadership Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
5 Sep 2011	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	3 - Adequate Not assessed 3 - Adequate Not assessed
11 May 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 3 - Adequate Not assessed
29 Sep 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate Not assessed
14 Aug 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate

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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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