

Chalmers, Karen Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 17 September 2021

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2010978829

Care service number:
CS2010254746

Introduction

This childminder provides a flexible service from her home, Monday to Friday, on a full-time, part-time and flexible basis. The service operates from the service provider's semi-detached villa located within the Renfrew area of Renfrewshire.

The current registration allows the childminder to care for six children up to 16 years of age. The childminder states that "each child or young person will be cared for in a safe, stimulating and happy environment that takes account of parents' wishes."

What we did during our inspection

We carried out an unannounced inspection of the childminding service on Friday 10 September 2021. Feedback was given on Friday 17 September 2021. The inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

During the inspection we gathered evidence from a number of sources, including the following:
We spoke with:

- children present,
- the childminder.

We observed and viewed:

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

We looked at the following evidence:

- children's records,
- policies and procedures,
- registration certificate and public liability insurance certificate.

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.

Views of people using the service

We spoke to two children who were using the service; they were happy and relaxed and were having fun playing with a variety of toys during our visit.

We invited parents to contact us to give us their views about the service provided. Three parents took up this offer and their feedback validated our observations detailed in this report. Parents were generally very happy with the service provided.

They also provide additional comments praising the childminder for providing a safe and happy place for their children, but also a place where they can have fun while learning and developing life skills.

Self assessment

The childminder had not been asked to submit a self-assessment prior to the inspection taking place.

What the service did well

Children were being cared for in a warm, nurturing, and welcoming environment. The childminder had formed close attachment's with the children in her care and worked in partnership with parents to ensure that their needs were being met. This gave parents reassurance that their comments and views were respected and valued buy the childminder, they could influence the care their child received.

What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to build upon the existing good practice.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We observed children that felt safe and secure in the care of the childminder as a result of warm, loving and nurturing interactions. The childminder knew the children and their families well and was responsive to meeting the needs of the children. Two children were present during the inspection and both were happy, content and settled. They independently accessed a variety of age-appropriate resources which supported them to lead their own play and achieve.

Children's physical and emotional health was promoted as they enjoyed daily access to fresh air and energetic play. Children had regular, daily opportunities to be outdoors. They went for walks in the local community and played a variety of games in the garden.

Children's information was gathered using 'All about me' booklets which outlined children's interests and individual needs. The childminder reviewed these with parents every six months as is required by legislation. Children's individual personal plans were basic and we suggested these could be further developed to record more information about the children's development and how their learning and individual interests were being supported. This would help the childminder to plan for individual children and support their play and learning. Prior to writing this report the childminder had developed a

proforma that contained more detail and outlined how the childminder was planning for each individual child's health welfare and safety needs, as well as supporting their learning.

The childminder valued the importance of good health. A balanced and varied selection of healthy snacks and meals were offered. Children were given the opportunity to develop their independence, with appropriate support from the childminder if needed, for example the children present told us about rhymes or words of encouragement that were used to support eating 'yummy, yummy in my tummy' and 'the last bits the best bit'. Their views about what and how much they would like to eat was respected.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children. For example, the childminder's home was ventilated, enhanced cleaning procedures were in place and hand washing was supervised and took place at appropriate times.

The childminder was aware of her role and responsibilities in keeping children safe. She had undertaken child protection training and was confident about the action that she should take if she had any concerns. This helped to ensure children's well-being. The childminder had not had the need to administer medication or deal with any accidents within her setting, however appropriate forms were available.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Children were cared for in a home from home environment which supported their needs and made them feel welcome. The childminder maintained the clean, well ventilated, and organised environment to a very good standard. Infection control and food safety practices kept children safe.

To meet the learning and development needs of all children, the childminder provided a range of toys and resources for them to access. Children led their own play and chose from resources which included construction, books, puzzles, transport and art and craft. The resources were organised and easily accessible. The children moved freely around the downstairs area of the childminder's home which provided a large space for them to take part in a variety of play experiences. These opportunities encouraged and supported the children to make choices, develop their imaginations, problem solve and be creative.

Children regularly explored the local community and outdoor spaces. These experiences encouraged children to be active and healthy, whilst being in line with the national Covid-19 guidance of maximising the use of outdoor environments throughout the day.

To keep the children safe from harm, the childminder had risk assessments in place for all indoor and outdoor environments. The risk assessments were reviewed and updated as required and included information relating to Covid-19.

Resources that have been used by children were cleaned each day. Regular deep cleaning was carried out to keep the environment safe; good hygiene standards were observed during this inspection. The home is uncluttered and well maintained. There was a flow of fresh air throughout the house which further minimised the spread of infection.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The childminder was well organised and stored all documentation safely and securely. Policies and procedures were in place which were in line with current best practice guidance and had been shared with families.

To improve outcomes and experiences for children, the childminder had undertaken several training opportunities which included a range of courses and reading the best practice documents. This training had developed the childminder's knowledge and had also supported her to provide quality experiences for children and be reflective about her practice. It would be beneficial for the childminder to evaluate all learning and development and record the impact of the training on her practice.

The childminder told us that she kept up to date with legislation, guidance and best practice documents by accessing provider updates from the Care Inspectorate and information from the SCMA (Scottish Childminding Association).

The childminder was aware of her responsibility with regard to keeping the Care Inspectorate notified of significant events and worked within the conditions of her registration. Information needed to meet statutory requirements such as displaying of registration certificate, public liability insurance and regular maintenance of heating systems were in place.

To support self evaluation and ongoing improvements within the service, the childminder was developing an improvement plan, and was further developing learning journals and children's personal plans.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very 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

There are no outstanding recommendations.

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	
31 May 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
9 May 2012	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
1 Jun 2011	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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