

MacGillivray, Kathleen Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 30 November 2021

Service provided by:
Kathleen MacGillivray

Service provider number:
SP2003907758

Care service number:
CS2003007980

Introduction

The childminding service provided by Kathleen MacGillivray is registered to care for 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 and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate. Overnight care will not be provided.

The service is provided from the childminder's family home in the town of Fort William. Children use of the family kitchen, lounge, hall/designated playroom and toilet. There was an garden to the rear of the house which the childminder made very good use of. The childminder also made regular use of the surrounding land to offer the children the opportunity to be healthy, active and have access to fresh air and exercise.

The aims and objectives of the service included: to provide a safe caring environment. All full list of aims can be obtained from the childminder.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for EveryChild (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.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following a short announced inspection, which took place between 12:30 and 14:00 on 22 September 2021. An inspector from the Care Inspectorate carried out the inspection. There were two young children present at the time of the inspection.

During this inspection we looked around the areas used by the minded children. We spoke with the childminder and observed the quality of interactions between the children present and the childminder. We sampled relevant documentation to support the evaluation findings.

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

On the day of the inspection, there were two children present. They were both extremely settled and relaxed in the care of the childminder. There was lots of chat, smiles, laughs and positive interactions between the childminder and the children. The childminder offered the children encouragement and praise when trying new activities and, when required, reassurance which helped the children to feel safe and secure.

We provided the service with email address in order that parents/carers could share their views as to the quality of the service we received very positive feedback. Comments included:

"Communication is excellent and we do a handover every morning and afternoon on pick up. When (my child) hits new milestones, she takes time to discuss with me about changes and how we can best support him."

Another parent commented "Kathleen has been with my children through their major milestones and gives them encouragement and support when it is needed. She has such a variety of activities, equipment and toys at her house and also takes the children to various parks."

Self assessment

The service completed a self assessment which provided a full overview of measures taken to support children and families making use of the service.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a very good service and focussed on promoting positive outcomes for all children attending.

We were able to observe the children being fully engaged in supported activities which the childminder had laid out in such a way that the children could access. This selection of activities was led by the childminders knowledge of the children's interests. The childminder had established very good working relationships with the families which allowed for open communication and information sharing.

What the service could do better

The childminder was committed to their professional development and despite the challenges presented by the pandemic had been able to access appropriate training. We discussed elements of the environment that could be further developed and noted the childminder had already begun taking forward further plans to support children's outcomes by developing a range of new outside experiences with loose parts continuing to support imaginative play. We agreed that supporting children's ability to access resources independently promotes choice and build confidence and expect this to continue to be a focus of future planning.

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 found that the childminder provided very good care and support for the children which ensured positive outcomes for them. The childminder held appropriate documentation which included information to support

specific needs. We observed the children present to be comfortable in the childminders company, she was very responsive to their individual needs. Providing patient support and encouragement, praise during lunch time whilst the children were being fed.

The childminder provided a well-balanced range of toys and resources which allowed children to access new experiences as well as play with established favourite activities or toys. The childminder made meaningful observations of the children's play and had introduced more loose parts to promote the children's imagination and curiosity. Children were supported to progress at their own pace and achieve their potential.

The childminder knew the children's preferences, routines and needs well. Daily conversations with parents at drop off and pick up meant that information was easily shared.

The service had appropriate infection control procedures and practices in place to ensure that the children were cared for in a safe environment. The children were supported to understand the need for good hand washing and keeping things clean. Children were supported and encouraged to wash their hands at different times during the day including before and after eating, after playing outdoors and after being to the toilet.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children during Covid-19 pandemic. For example, there are clear procedures implemented to ensure a consistent approach across the service. Physical distancing is implemented for adults using the setting with the childminder continuing to operate doorstep drop off and collection.

The childminder was very aware of her responsibility to safeguard children. She had completed relevant training and had a very good understanding of child protection. We were confident that the childminder was committed to her role and responsibilities in keeping children safe from harm.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered during the inspection we found that the service was performing to a very good standard in this area. We concluded this after talking with the childminder and looking round the childminder's home.

From our observations we saw that the childminder's home was clean, tidy and welcoming. The childminding areas provided children with plenty of space and comfort to play, eat, rest, relax and explore.

We were told children had access to a range of resources which were stored in an outside shed. We saw that children were able to access a range of toys in the dedicated playroom and were also confident to ask the childminder for toys they wanted to play with. The Living room and play room was used for children to enjoy their snacks and to participate in art and craft activities.

We were told the children used the childminder's rear garden on a regular basis. We noted a range of new activities and resources which had been sourced since the last inspection. A section of a previously unavailable garden had also been added to the area children could use.

The childminder had a very good awareness of the importance of outdoor active play. The childminder told us about her plans to develop the garden further. This would provide children with even more opportunities to be creative and develop their imaginative play.

We discussed with the childminder the storage of resources indoors and suggested that in terms of children's experience "Less is More." The childminder agreed to look at how resources were stored in relation to children's access to resources. Daily walks in the local woods and parks provided children opportunities to socialise with other children and to develop an awareness and understanding risk and their environment.

The childminder had travel cots for infants to use if required. We discussed highlighting best practice with parents/cares to ensure they make informed choices as to where their children are left to sleep.

There had been no recent accidents or incidents and therefore we were unable to look at any completed forms. The childminder had a current first aid certificate to support the care of children using the service.

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

From the evidence gathered during the inspection, we found that the service was performing to a very good standard in this area. We concluded this after talking with the childminder and looking at supporting paperwork and individual records. Additional information was provided through the submission of emails from a sample of parents and carers using the service.

The childminder was committed to the ongoing development of her service. She explained that since the last inspection she had made improvements. She had continued to evaluate the service and had involved the children and their families in this process. She encouraged the children and their families to give feedback. By taking account of their views and suggestions contributed to them feeling valued, included and respected.

The childminder was aware of the importance of ensuring that she had the appropriate knowledge and skills to offer high quality care and experiences for the children. She had attended a range of training. The childminder was able to tell us how she had used what she had learned to develop the service to ensure that she met the individual needs of the children.

Parental feedback shared with the inspector further evidenced the childminder was proactive in seeking information to support the children and their families whilst they used the service. We noted changes to daily routines were made to ensure children's interests and care needs were met.

The childminder was sought to keep up to date with best practice and regularly accessed useful websites such as the Care Inspectorate hub, the Scottish Childminding Association hub and other childminding forums and Facebook pages. She got ideas as to how she could develop her service by reading various publications and any best practice guidance she received.

The childminder continued to have a good understanding as to her role and responsibilities linked to keeping children safe. This role is included in a child protection statement shared with parents/carers prior to the children starting to use the service.

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
7 Jun 2016	Announced (short notice)	<div>Care and support</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Environment</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Staffing</div> <div>Not assessed</div> <div>Management and leadership</div> <div>5 - Very good</div>
22 May 2012	Announced (short notice)	<div>Care and support</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Environment</div> <div>4 - Good</div> <div>Staffing</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Management and leadership</div> <div>Not assessed</div>
29 Sep 2009	Announced (short notice)	<div>Care and support</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Environment</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Staffing</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Management and leadership</div> <div>Not assessed</div>

Date	Type	Gradings	
22 Jan 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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.