

Kim's Childcare Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 31 May 2022

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2015987252

Care service number:
CS2015340102

Introduction

Kim's Childcare is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time, under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of six will be under 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. The childminder service operates from Kim Hamilton's family home in the Baillieston area of Glasgow. The service is close to local primary schools, parks and other amenities. Children have access to the downstairs of the property, where there is a lounge, kitchen leading on to an enclosed rear garden and a downstairs toilet.

What we did during our inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 31 May 2022 between 12:00 and 1:30. One inspector carried out the inspection. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluation we:

- observed the minded children present and asked the childminder to forward an email to parents, requesting their feedback on the quality of the service
- spoke with the childminder
- observed the childminding environment and the resources available to support children's care, learning and development
- reviewed documents.

Views of people using the service

"My son has been attending Kim's one day a week (term time) for almost a year. He loves going to her house. Kim is super helpful and a great childminder. Overall we are very happy with her service and our child loves his time with her."

"Kim is a warm, caring person and she cares for my little boy as if he was her own. I trust her 100% and believe she will show him love, protect him and keep him safe at all times. He spends 2 full days with Kim each week and he is always developing new skills, visiting new places and taking part in lots of fun activities. My child was shy to begin with but through time Kim has brought him out of his shell and encouraged him to get involved with the other children at every opportunity. I can see a huge difference in his confidence. My son's speech has progressed since he started with Kim and I'm delighted he can now count to 5 and recognises many objects/animals etc. through Kim's use of books and flashcards. I would recommend Kim to any of my friends and family and I'm delighted that she has is a part of my child's life."

Self assessment

The childminder was not asked to submit an up-to-date self assessment prior to this inspection.

What the service did well

The childminder knew children and families well and planned individual care and support that was responsive to children's needs. They kept in regular contact with parents so that parents could be reassured that their children were safe and well cared for. The childminder was committed to keeping abreast of changes to national guidance and best practice. They had participated in training that would help them support positive outcomes for children in their care. The childminder provided a rich variety of well resourced play experiences both indoors and outdoors that contributed to children's fun, enjoyment and overall health and wellbeing.

What the service could do better

The childminder should take forward her plans for further professional development and to share parent's and children's views on potential improvements on the quality of her service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	6 - Excellent
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	6 - Excellent

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder was very good at providing effective care and support for children. She was warm and nurturing with the child being cared for during our inspection. She knew them well and was responsive to their needs and interests. We saw that children experienced a child centred, relaxed and homely environment with lots of fun and enjoyment. The childminder had very good relationships with parents and communicated with them through informal discussions, text messages, written progress report and an online and mobile phone app that provided real time updates on children's care and learning experiences. One parent commented: "I love that Kim communicates daily using WhatsApp, childcare Facebook account and the family app. She is always sharing pictures and updates so that I know what he is up to while I'm at work." We could see from the childminder's written records for each child that there was on-going communication with parents about children's progress. The childminder was able to highlight children's individual likes, dislikes, routines and personal preferences. We discussed observation strategies that would strengthen the link between each child's personal plan and SHANARRI well-being indicators. They discussed how photographs gathered to record children's successes and achievements through play experiences were used to inform parents about play activities. We found that personal plans set out individualised next steps for each child's play and learning. This strengthened the personal records for children by ensuring they were used as a forward-looking planning tool that supported developmentally challenging play experiences for children.

The childminder had a very good knowledge of nutrition and was familiar with best practice national guidance and food standards for early years childcare providers. She had registered as a food business with the local authority and completed food safety hygiene training. This meant that she complied with current legislation providing assurance to parents that food was stored and prepared safely. She encouraged parents to provide meals for children that promoted healthy eating. She had additional healthy snack options available to children including fruit, cheese, cereal, noodles, crackers and soup sometimes made from garden grown vegetables. One parent commented: "My son is offered lots of healthy snacks and he's tried new foods since being at Kim's house". Another parent told us: "My son always enjoys the snacks provided as they are varied and always healthy such as fruit and yoghurt".

The childminder was confident about her responsibilities for protecting children and keeping them safe. They had completed a wide range of recent training including: child protection in a childminding setting, developing children's self-esteem, working with families, and supporting emotional, mental and physical needs of children. The childminder agreed that regularly refreshing her child protection training helped her to update her knowledge of current safeguarding issues. The earlier achievement of a Professional Development Award in Childhood Practice and her ongoing learning ensured she had the skills and capacity to proactively ensure the wellbeing of all children, including those who are most vulnerable.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We made an evaluation of excellent for this theme, as we found the childminder had created an innovative play-based environment that supported a wide range of high quality child centred activities.

We found the childminder's home to be a warm, welcoming and smoke free environment for children. The childminder was very aware of the safety of the children and made sure that the rooms used were safe for the children to explore and play. She told us how within her home children mainly played in the lounge room and richly resourced secure rear garden space. Children had opportunities to participate in an extensive range of engaging activities centred around their chosen interests. This included: outdoor literacy and numeracy activities, planting and growing, mud kitchen and loose parts play, building dens, cosmic yoga, dance and movement activities as well as climbing, balancing, sliding and seesaw activities. The childminder was respectful in her interactions and responded positively to the child's verbal and non-verbal communications. This resulted in the children being cared for in a safe and inclusive environment.

She told us that she frequently took the children to the local parks for energetic play experiences involving large physical apparatus such as slides, swings and roundabouts and tree climbing. One parent commented: "She always sets up lots of new activities for the children no matter how messy and more recently he's been going on trips to soft play. I feel Kim has lots of great resources for the children and keeps us updated with photographs and gives a run through of his day at pick up time." In addition, the childminder told us that she took the children on a wide variety of outings to a sensory play café, a multi-activity woodland park and walks to a local loch to observe bird life. These opportunities encouraged children to be physically active, to develop their understanding of the natural world and experience regular fresh air and exercise.

Effective systems were in place to record and share information with parents about any accidents or incidents. This meant that parents were kept informed about issues affecting their children. The childminder had completed a Paediatric First Aid course. This helped to assure parents and children that she had the capacity to effectively deal with any accidents.

The childminder explained other ways they made sure the environment was fit for the care of children through day-to-day cleaning and risk assessments. The risk assessment had been developed to take account of Covid-19 mitigations recommended by national guidance, which supported a safe environment for everyone.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 - excellent

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We made an evaluation of excellent for this theme, as we found evidence of extensive professional learning and development undertaken by the childminder that contributed to effective practice and high quality outcomes for children and families using the service.

The childminder held a recognised childcare qualification and was proactive about sourcing information about changing childcare practice. She had completed a wide range of training since her last inspection to update courses the Care Inspectorate consider necessary to meet the needs of children as well as support the delivery of community childminding for vulnerable children. Training undertaken included courses in Realising the Ambition, the Pre-Birth to Three curriculum, Curriculum for Excellence, Chasing curiosity with babies and toddlers, Achieving smooth transitions, Sensory processing disorder awareness, Outdoor play, Introduction to GIRFEC and Preventing Covid-19. The childminder played a role in maintaining and developing the work of a Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) learning network. As a result, children benefitted from the childminder's motivation to improve the quality of experience they were offered. Policies and procedures had been updated regularly and where changes had been made these policies had been shared with parents. Through discussion with the childminder we found that she was very keen to take advantage of further training when it was available to help her continue to provide positive outcomes for children.

The childminder had completed the registration process with and followed guidance for storing children's photographs from the Information Commission Officer. This helped to protect children's personal information and to assure parent's that it was shared appropriately.

We found that the childminder regularly surveyed parents about aspects of her service including children's all round wellbeing and settling in. This helped her gather parent's and children's views on potential improvements and helped her to fully evaluate the service. This approach ensured that parents and children were included in making decisions about the service and to ensure it was relevant to each families' needs.

The childminder had accessed appropriate public liability insurance to support her childminding practice.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 - excellent

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 update her medication policy and written records to be in line with current best practice guidance "Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding settings". This should state that the childminder would not give the first dose of any medication in case of an allergy or adverse reaction and record the times the parent had given the last dose of medication to the child. This would contribute to the already good practice in place and the health and safety of the children.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 3: Health and Wellbeing

This recommendation was made on 27 July 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder did not currently care for any children requiring prescribed medication. She discussed how she safely administered medication and made sure that parents completed consent forms before this was given. She demonstrated a clear understanding of the procedure to be followed, if a child spits out, or refuses medication. This approach was in keeping with our good practice guidance and ensured children's health, safety and wellbeing needs were met.

This recommendation has been 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	
8 Jul 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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