

Hunter, Karen Child Minding

Kilbirnie

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
23 September 2022

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2005946252

Service no:
CS2005093941

About the service

The childminder has been operating a childminding service for a number of years and registered with the Care Inspectorate since the Care Inspectorate was formed in 2011.

The service is registered to care for 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 will be under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The service is provided from the childminder's home in the town of Kilbirnie. The family home is situated within a residential housing area, close to local parks and amenities. The lounge is used as the main indoor play area.

Service aims include:

- To offer a childminding service to which health and safety and welfare of your child are paramount.
- To offer a home to home environment where all children and parents are welcomed.
- To ensure that all parents and children are treated equally and views listened to when decisions are made that will affect them.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 21 September 2022.

The inspection was carried out by two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

- In making our evaluations of the service we:
- Observed one child using the service.
- Reviewed emails from two parents currently using the service.
- Spoke with the childminder.
- Observed practice and daily life.
- Reviewed documents.

Key messages

The childminder's interactions were warm, caring, and nurturing towards the children.

Children's learning, development and interests were supported through the age-appropriate resources, activities and a variety of outings within the wider community.

The childminder was well organised and kept clear records to support children's health, wellbeing and developmental needs.

The childminder had robust quality assurance systems and processes in place to effectively monitor and evaluate the service.

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

| | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|
| How good is our care, play and learning? | 5 - Very Good |
| How good is our setting? | 5 - Very Good |
| How good is our leadership? | 5 - Very Good |
| How good is our staff team? | 5 - Very Good |

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care, play and learning?

5 - Very Good

Quality indicator 1.1 Nurturing care and support

The childminder interacted well with the child present and responded to their needs with a kind, caring calm approach. We saw a loving attachment between the childminder and the child.

The child was given praise, encouragement, and reassurance consistently throughout our visit. The childminder was responsive to the child's needs and requests, and we could see how comfortable, content and confident she was in the company of the childminder.

Personal plans were in place for each child which were detailed and included all required information. These plans provided an in-depth overview of the child's needs, wishes and routines. The plans were reviewed at least six monthly or sooner if required.

Meals and snacks for children included home cooked foods and were planned using nutritional guidance document 'Setting the Table' contributing to their nutritional health and wellbeing.

The childminder described a positive snack and mealtime experience, ensuring children were supported with feeding when required, and encouraging a social experiences with children taking part in discussions on subjects that interested them. Parents also believed the meal experience for their children was a positive one, additional comments from parents included, 'A good variety of healthy snacks are available with the child minder, ranging from fruit and vegetables to home baked goods which the children participate in making'.

The childminder maintained effective communications with families during drop offs and pick-ups each day. WhatsApp was also used to share information and photographs with families daily. Parents confirmed that the childminder kept in regular contact with them to share information about their child's day, one parent told us 'Karen keeps me updated on and relevant information throughout the day via messenger, along with a detailed daily report at the end of the day this is done via email and face to face'.

Quality indicator 1.3 Play and Learning

The childminder had a good understanding of each child's stage of development and ensured appropriate play opportunities supported their next steps within play and learning. Play was child led and the childminder observed children at play and supported or extended play by introducing further resources when it was appropriate to do so. During the inspection the child present asked to ice cakes that they had made prior to us arriving, the childminder quickly provided the equipment to allow her to do this.

Children's progress and learning was observed and recorded by the childminder and their achievements shared with parents and noted in their individual folders.

Children had access to a good range of stimulating, fun toys and equipment, including books which they had chosen from the local library, creative materials and role play toys, to stimulate their imagination. We suggested that children's play and learning would be further supported by having access to more natural, open-ended, sensory materials to support children's curiosity, problem solving and creativity.

Children spent time within their local community taking part in play and learning experiences. They regularly visited toddler groups, soft play centres and park areas. These visits contributed to increased social experiences which were meaningful and relevant to the children's daily lives.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

The childminder had created a warm, homely environment, where children and families were welcomed. Areas used by children were comfortably furnished, clean and well maintained.

The indoor environment provided sufficient space for children to play and relax in comfort. Children could choose from a range of resources including construction, small world imaginative and arts and crafts.

Outdoor play was a daily event for children, either within the enclosed back garden or out in the community. A wide range of quality resources were available for the children to access from large storage systems within the garden.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection prevention control procedures to support a safe environment for children and families. For example, the childminder supported children to wash their hands, encouraging and reinforcing the need for good hand hygiene.

Risk assessments were in place for all areas of the childminder's home, and regular trips and outings. These were reviewed and updated every six months or sooner if required and clearly showed any actions to be taken forward.

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

The childminder was organised and kept clear records, keeping clear records and following best practice helped support children's privacy and safety when attending the service.

The childminder had a partnership agreement with the local authority to provide funded early learning and childcare places. This provided her with a level of support and assistance if she needed it. She had regular contact and discussions with other professionals including childminders where they shared ideas and best practice, but also offered each other support and encouragement.

The childminder was reflective and had recently completed a self-evaluation of her service to support ongoing improvements. She had begun to use 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged childcare' to support self-evaluation within the service and had developed an Improvement plan with achievable targets. We encouraged the childminder to continue this improvement journey.

Regular contact with parents/carers and informal communications meant families could influence the care provided. Parents/carers confirmed they were very happy with the communication methods used by the childminder. They provided further comments including, 'All information is informative. Information is shared daily though private social media, email and messenger and also verbally upon collection of my child' and 'Karen keeps me updated on and relevant information throughout the day via messenger, along with a detailed daily report at the end of the day this is done via email and face to face'.

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

The childminder had a good understanding of children's individual needs. She knew each family well and described positive relationships. Parents confirmed that they regularly shared information with the childminder, and they received detailed information about their child's day. This ensured that children's current needs could be met to a high standard.

Partnership working with parents was important to the childminder. She encouraged parents to work closely with her to provide very good care for their children. She regularly consulted them formally and informally through questionnaires, daily chats or text messages.

The childminder's knowledge and understanding of childcare issues was developed through attending training, reading and researching relevant publications through Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and the Hub section of the Care Inspectorates own site.

The childminder had taken part in a wide range of training opportunities over the last few years to support her professional development and improve her practice, this included First Aid, Child protection and Supporting Boys in Early Learning. The childminder had an understanding of the signs and expected responses linked to any child protection concerns that may present themselves in the future. This supported the childminder to keep children safe. The childminder had identified and applied for further training to ensure she keeps up to date with key childcare developments that will help her meet the needs of children.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Detailed evaluations

| | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|
| How good is our care, play and learning? | 5 - Very Good |
| 1.1 Nurturing care and support | 5 - Very Good |
| 1.3 Play and learning | 5 - Very Good |

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| How good is our setting? | 5 - Very Good |
| 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities | 5 - Very Good |

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| How good is our leadership? | 5 - Very Good |
| 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well | 5 - Very Good |

| | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|
| How good is our staff team? | 5 - Very Good |
| 4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values | 5 - Very Good |

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