

Boyd, Carol Ann Child Minding

Glasgow

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
9 February 2024

Service provided by:
Boyd, Carol Ann Boyd, Carol Ann

Service provider number:
SP2003903093

Service no:
CS2003005289

About the service

Carol Ann Boyd operates a childminding service from their home in the village of Drymen. The service offers children a dedicated "cabin" which is cosy with ample space for children to rest, relax and enjoy activities. The cabin opens directly into the enclosed garden space. Children also have access to the kitchen/dining area within the childminders home, where toilet facilities are situated on the same floor. The service is close to local amenities including the local primary school.

The childminder may provide care for a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age: of whom no more than six are under 12 years; of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and; of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers include the children of the childminder's family/household.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Wednesday 7 February and Friday 9 February 2024. The inspection was carried out by one inspector 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:

- spoke with children in the service
- reviewed digital responses from three families
- spoke with one parent
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and interactions with children
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Positive relationships had been established with children and families.
- The childminders understanding of child development meant that children enjoyed fun activities which were appropriate for their age.
- The childminder understood the positive impact that outdoor experiences had on children's overall wellbeing.
- Children experienced high quality care and support from a service that was dedicated to meeting their needs.
- The childminder should ensure children's personal plans are reviewed with children and families at least once every six months.

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?	4 - 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?

4 - Good

We evaluated this quality indicator as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality Indicator 1.1 - Nurturing care and support

Children were cared for with kindness and a compassionate approach. They experienced care which was well considered to meet their individual needs. The childminder knew children and families well. They took into account personal preferences and personalities, which ensured the care provided met the needs of individuals.

Families were happy with the service provided and told us that the childminder was reliable. One parent said, "Carol is very caring and knows my child very well. My child loves going to Carol. They feel safe with her." This resulted in children being happy and having fun as their overall wellbeing was supported and their needs were being met.

The childminder provided snacks for children after school, such as toast and pancakes. We discussed ways to involve them more in the planning and preparation of snacks. For example, encouraging children to spread their own butter. This would allow the childminder to focus less on tasks and would develop children's independence skills. Involving children in menu planning would further promote opportunities to explore healthy eating and lifestyle choices. The childminder was close by as children ate. This ensured they were safe as they enjoyed a positive social experience.

Personal plans for children had been developed by the childminder and included the views of families. Some children had "What matters to me" included within their personal plans. We suggested including this in all children's plans. This would ensure their views were clearly represented and their wishes and choices recorded. We discussed the importance of reviewing personal plans with children and families at least once every six months.

Policies and procedures for the safe storage and recording of medication ensured children's health and wellbeing needs were being met.

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

Quality Indicator 1.3 - Play and learning

We witnessed children actively involved in leading their play and learning. There was a balance of spontaneous and planned activities which promoted children's choice and independence. The childminder provided interesting prompts to provoke children's interest in seasonal celebrations, such as Chinese New Year. A range of activities and resources gave children opportunities to develop their imagination and creativity. For example, open-ended resources for children to explore and develop their problem-solving skills as they built marble runs. As a result children were happy and confident as they explored their natural curiosity, learning and creativity.

The childminder understood the positive impact that outdoor play had on children's overall wellbeing. We observed children playing together and having fun in the fully enclosed garden at the rear of the property. They also had regular access to fresh air and exercise as they enjoyed and made use of outdoor spaces in

the local community. Children told us that they liked going to the local playpark. Outdoor experiences meant they were learning about the benefits of an active lifestyle that promoted their health and wellbeing.

Children and families told us of regular, sometimes frequent, baking opportunities which were enjoyed by children. The childminder described how they researched recipes online together to discover what ingredients would be needed for children's suggestions. For example, one child was keen to make cinnamon buns. The childminder recognised how baking activities helped to develop and support children's learning as they weighed, measured and followed recipes. We also observed children being encouraged to widen their skills through the use of effective questioning, as they explored arts and craft activities. This meant children were being supported to fulfil their potential as they developed lifelong learning skills.

Informal observations of children's experiences and learning were shared with families. We discussed different ways in which children's learning and achievements could be recorded. This would provide opportunities for them to reflect, evaluate and celebrate their success.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Quality Indicator 2.2 - Children experience high quality facilities

Children benefitted from a comfortable environment that was well furnished and offered lots of natural light and ventilation. There was a dedicated cabin space situated in the garden which gave children an immediate sense of belonging and meant they felt welcomed. Children told us that they loved this space. A variety of activities including open-ended, and arts and crafts resources supported children's choice and provided opportunities for them to be creative. Children also had access to the kitchen/dining area and toilet facilities on the ground floor of the house. The carefully considered and organised layout supported children to lead their learning and gave them a strong message that they mattered.

The garden at the rear of the property was fully enclosed and secure. There was a variety of outdoor play and learning opportunities for children and ample space for them to enjoy physical activities. They had free flow access between the garden, house and cabin. This promoted children's independence and ensured they could rest and relax as well as explore and have fun.

The property was well maintained indoors and outdoors. Detailed risk assessments ensured that children's safety was promoted as potential risks had been minimised. Infection prevention and control measures were in place. Regular cleaning procedures meant the spread of infection was minimised. Handwashing at key times should be supervised to ensure this is done effectively by all children. This will further enhance infection prevention and control measures.

The childminder understood the importance of keeping children's personal information secure and followed General Data Protection Regulations. They asked for permission before taking photographs and shared their confidentiality policy with families using the service.

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Quality Indicator 3.1 - Quality assurance and improvements are led well

The childminders vision, values and aims for the service were evident in the warm interactions and positive relationships we witnessed throughout the inspection. Children told us that they liked going to the childminders house and playing with their friends. The nurturing nature of the childminder meant that children felt safe and secure.

Positive, trusting relationships had been established with children and families, and the childminder knew them well. Their views were gathered through informal discussions, and were considered as the childminder developed their service. We discussed ways to further involve children and record their views in a more formal way. For example, developing floorbooks to promote opportunities for them to share their thoughts as they evaluate experiences.

The childminder made use of best practice guidance such as Realising the Ambition and the Care Inspectorates' document, A Quality Framework for daycare of children, childminding, and school aged childcare. This supported them to reflect on the service they provided and helped to identify potential areas for improvement. As a result children experienced high quality care and support from a service that was dedicated to meeting their needs.

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Quality Indicator 4.1 -Staff skills, knowledge and values

The responsive and kind interactions we witnessed supported children to feel valued and respected. The rights of the child were promoted and evident in the childminders practice and in their discussions with children. The childminder understood the importance of listening to children and families. This enabled them to build strong relationships and provided appropriate care and support for individuals. As a result children's emotional wellbeing benefitted from positive attachments.

The experienced childminder demonstrated a good understanding of how children develop and learn. They were mindful of this as they planned fun experiences, ensuring activities were age and stage appropriate and offered challenge for children.

The childminder engaged with other professionals using online platforms, and met with another local childminder to share ideas and good practice. They were also a member of the Scottish Childminding Association where they accessed some training opportunities. This meant children benefitted from a committed and motivated childminder. We discussed ways to record and evaluate training and consider the impact it had on practice, and on outcomes for children. This may help them to identify further training opportunities.

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?	4 - Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	4 - 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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