

Jaynene Barnfather Childminding Child Minding

Falkirk

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
24 April 2024

Service provided by:
Jaynene Barnfather

Service provider number:
SP2016987795

Service no:
CS2016345169

About the service

Jaynene Barnfather provides a care service from their family home in a residential area of Falkirk. The childminder is registered to provide care to 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.

From 1 May 2024 to 7 July 2025 the childminder may care for a maximum of seven 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. This part of the registration is time limited and is effective at set times on two specific times days of the week.

The service is close to local amenities including parks, a shop, the local nursery and school. The service is delivered from the ground floor of the family home and children have access to the living room, bathroom, kitchen and a garden to the rear of the property.

At the time of the inspection the garden to the rear of property was not in use for the younger children attending. The childminder told us there were plans in place to renovate some areas of this garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection, which took place on 23 May 2024 between 15:15 and 18:00 and 24 May 2024 between 15:30 and 18:00. Feedback was given to the childminder at the end of the second visit. 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 registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since registration.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- Spoke with four children using the service.
- Gathered feedback from four families.
- Spoke with the childminder.
- Observed practice.
- Reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were happy, settled and enjoying their time in the childminder's care.
- Daily experiences were planned well to support children's interests, play and learning.
- Positive communication with families promoted continuity of care.
- Self evaluation approaches should be developed to support continuous improvements.
- Professional development and learning opportunities should be increased.
- Action must be taken to ensure children's safety in the back garden.

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?	3 - Adequate
How good is our leadership?	3 - Adequate
How good is our staff team?	4 - 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 made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on the children's experiences.

Quality indicator 1.1 Nurturing care and support

Children experienced nurturing care which supported their feeling of belonging and being well cared for. They were happy, relaxed and confident in the childminder's care. Positive attachments and trusting relationships with the childminder and each other promoted a respectful care setting. Families told us the childminder was very friendly, kind and welcoming.

Personal care was sensitively supported and respectfully promoted children's independence, privacy and dignity.

Children were supported well to explore and express their emotions. Older children told us they were given time and space to talk to the childminder on their own. This gave them opportunities to confidentially share their feelings and any worries they may have. The childminder listened to them and offered comfort and reassurance. The childminder skilfully observed and responded to the younger children's cues when seeking cuddles and affection. This promoted a feeling of security. Children could be further supported to understand their emotions. We guided the childminder to specific tools to promote learning and emotional resilience.

The childminder knew the children well and continually gathered important information about their specific care needs. Effective working with families to develop specific support strategies meant children experienced continuity of care throughout their day. This also supported children to remain happy and settled. Children could be given more opportunities to contribute to their personal care plans. For example, involving them in reviews and assessments of their individual needs. This will promote children's voice and demonstrate to them they are valued and their views matter.

Although the childminder demonstrated a good knowledge of children's specific medical needs some information was not recorded within individual care plans. For example, allergies and the relevant action to take. This had the potential to cause a negative impact in the event of an emergency. **See area for improvement 1.**

Children enjoyed a relaxed, unhurried and sociable snack experience. Older children's independence was promoted as they planned, prepared and self served their own food and drinks. To further support younger children's independence and life skills, the childminder should enhance their involvement in preparing and serving meals and snacks. Easy access to drinking bottles throughout the day encouraged children to remain hydrated. This promoted their concentration and health.

Quality indicator 1.3 Play and learning

The childminder had a good understanding of the children's current development needs. Daily experiences were planned well to promote children's interests, continued achievement and learning through play. Individual development plans were progressing well. The childminder should now enhance the level of information detailed. For example, clearly recording how they plan to help children develop and achieve identified next steps. This will support improved monitoring, evaluations and assessments of individual development. The childminder should implement a formal approach to reviewing children's care and development plans. This should be a minimum of six monthly or sooner as changes happen. Children could be given more opportunities to contribute to their own development plans. This will encourage them to realise and celebrate their achievements and build ownership of their learning. Families told us they were included and kept informed about their child's progress.

Children were having fun as they easily accessed a variety of toys, games and activities. This empowered them to make individual choices and lead their own play and learning. The range of experiences available supported children's differing ages, interests and development. Children told us they liked to look at books, play board games together, play with cars and games with balls, hoops and basketball.

Children were encouraged to experience risk, creativity and challenge in their play. For example, using real tools, building with magnets, arts and crafts. This is an aspect of play that could be enhanced. The childminder should review the professional documents 'Our Creative Journey', 'My World Outdoors' 'Loose Parts Play' and 'Growing My Potential'. These documents can be found within the 'HUB' section of our website and will support increased risky play, creative and challenging experiences.

Children's development of language and literacy was naturally promoted through talking to them, looking at books together, singing and reciting nursery rhymes. To further support young children's language, the childminder planned specific games to encourage them to learn and understand new words.

Children were supported well to develop a positive connection with their local community. This included regular walks in the surrounding area, trips to the nearby shop and visits to local parks and nearby wooded areas.

Areas for improvement

1. To promote children's continued health, wellbeing and safety the provider should ensure all relevant medical information about children is appropriately recorded within their individual care plans. This will ensure the service complies with current guidance and information held remains up to date and of good use.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15).

How good is our setting?

3 - Adequate

We evaluated this key question as adequate. While the strengths had a positive impact, key areas need to improve.

Quality indicator 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

Children were cared for in a warm, homely and comfortable environment. Two large couches gave children a comfortable space where they could rest and relax. Areas used for childminding were spacious and enabled children to confidently move around and engage in their chosen activities. This promoted children's ownership of their day as they independently chose where they wanted to play.

The childminder demonstrated an understanding of appropriate practices to follow to prevent the spread of infection. For example, promoting good respiratory hygiene, effective handwashing routines and appropriate use of personal protective equipment when changing nappies and supporting toileting. They should now update the relevant risk assessment and daily checks to ensure the appropriate and safe storage of the protective equipment.

Daily cleaning of the home promoted a pleasant environment for children and families. Specific cleaning throughout the day further prevented the spread of infection. This included the toilet and bathroom sink after use and the kitchen table before and after meals. When cleaning the bathroom, the childminder should be vigilant to immediately remove resources and chemicals out of the reach of children.

Children told us about the rules of the house. These had been developed to promote the safety of children and avoid injury.

Children's risk of harm within the home and during outings was mostly reduced as the childminder developed and followed risk assessments. The childminder spoke about appropriate supervision of children which further supported their safety. The childminder should regularly review and update the assessments as necessary, including when there are changes or new families join the service.

The fencing surrounding the rear garden had recently fallen. This compromised the security of the garden and children's safety. A separate pile of wood with exposed nails was stored in the garden. This also caused a risk to children's safety. The childminder told us plans were in place to remove the wood and rebuild the fence. Older children and the childminder confirmed the younger children have not accessed the rear garden since the fence fell. **See requirement 1.**

Safe storage of children's personal information and the childminders understanding of confidentiality promoted family's privacy and dignity.

Requirements

1. By 20 May 2024, the provider must take action to reduce the risk of harm and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children in the rear garden. To do this, the provider must, at a minimum:

- Review and update the written risk assessment of the rear garden. This is to include the current issues of the fallen fence and the pile of wood with exposed nails.
- Ensure the removal or make safe the wood with exposed nails.
- Repair the fence to ensure the security of the garden and limit the risk of children leaving the service unnoticed.

This is in order to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standard 5.19 which states that "My environment is secure and safe." (HSCS 5.19)

This is also to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) (Welfare of Users) and Regulation 10(2)(b) (Fitness of premises) of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011/210.

How good is our leadership?

3 - Adequate

We evaluated this key question as adequate. While the strengths had a positive impact, key areas need to improve.

Quality indicator 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The care and support provided mostly reflected the values and aims of the service. These and written policies had been shared with all families. This enabled the families to have clear expectations about how their child's needs would be met. Regular communication with families promoted effective information sharing about the care and support experienced and children's continuing needs. Electronic messaging and sharing photographs kept families up to date about their child's experiences. This meant families could remain included in their child's day.

Children and families were informally asked to express their views about the service. This gave them some opportunity to contribute to evaluations and identify improvements. We discussed ways in which children could be further involved in assessing the quality of the service. For example, pictorial tools and confidential ways to make comments and suggestions. This will demonstrate to children that their views are welcomed and valued. The childminder should now consider how families could be further involved in the development of the service.

The childminder had informally reflected on some aspects of the service and shared plans to improve the garden areas and enhance play experiences for the older children. We discussed evaluation systems with the childminder and advised they become familiar with the best practice document 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare'. This document will support the childminder to evaluate their work and identify what is going well and what improvements could be made. We also highlighted the improvement section on the 'HUB' within our website. **See area for improvement 1.**

On the first day of the inspection, we found the childminder was in breach of the agreed conditions of registration. This being, caring for one child above the numbers stated on the registration certificate. The childminder took immediate action to ensure this breach did not continue. The childminder must ensure they comply with the stated conditions of registration at all times.

Areas for improvement

1. To support improvement and positive outcomes for children, the childminder should formalise evaluation and improvement methods. This should include effective use of professional guidance and the development of action plans to support the monitoring and assessment of identified improvements.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

We made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on the children's experiences.

Quality indicator 4.1 Staff skills, knowledge, and values

The childminder's caring approach supported children to feel valued and secure. Nurturing relationships and supporting families encouraged an inclusive care setting. Children continued to achieve and enjoy their time in the service as the childminder's enabling attitude encouraged them to lead their own play and learning.

The childminder demonstrated a good understanding of their responsibility to protect children in their care. Children were safeguarded as the childminder was knowledgeable of the actions to take in the event of a child protection concern. This included maintaining appropriate records and the importance of making referrals to the relevant agencies. This supported children's safety and wellbeing.

The childminder had undertaken some training and learning to develop their professional knowledge. This included self research to enhance their understanding of how to support children with specific additional needs. Effective implementation of new learning had led to improved experiences for some children. We encouraged the childminder to continue their learning and highlighted various guidance and professional documents as previously noted within this report. In addition, the childminder should become familiar with the document 'Realising the ambition: being me'. Building a sound knowledge of this document will assist the childminder to reflect on their practice and the support provided to children. This will also promote increased and improved outcomes for children and encourage high quality play and learning experiences.

All families told us they had developed a strong connection with the childminder and that overall, they were happy with the care and support their child received in the service.

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	4 - Good
How good is our setting?	3 - Adequate
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	3 - Adequate
How good is our leadership?	3 - Adequate
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	3 - Adequate
How good is our staff team?	4 - Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	4 - Good

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