

Kirstys kids childminding Child Minding

IRVINE

Type of inspection:
Announced (short notice)

Completed on:
20 August 2024

Service provided by:
Kirsty Davidson

Service provider number:
SP2021000235

Service no:
CS2021000368

About the service

Kirsty Kids childminding is registered to provide a service to a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age, 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. At the time of our inspection, 12 children were registered with the service.

The service is situated in a quiet residential area of Irvine, North Ayrshire. The children are cared for mainly in a designated playroom with access to a downstairs toilet and secure back garden. The childminder's home is close to local amenities, including; schools, shops and parks.

About the inspection

This was a short notice announced inspection which took place on Tuesday 20 August 2024 between 10:30 and 12:30. 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:

- received four parent responses to our Microsoft Forms questionnaire
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and experiences for children
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children experienced responsive kind and caring interactions from the childminder.
- The childminder had formed positive relationships with children and their families.
- The local community was well used to support children's experiences.
- The childminder should continue to develop ways to evaluate their service, involving children and families.
- * The childminder should ensure all children have a personal plan which outlines their health, welfare and safety needs, and how these needs will be met.
- * The childminder should work closely with families of children who have identified support needs to ensure they have assessments of risk in place and chronologies are implemented to track significant events in the child's life.

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?	3 - Adequate
How good is our setting?	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	3 - Adequate
How good is our staff team?	3 - Adequate

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

How good is our care, play and learning?

3 - Adequate

We evaluated this key question as adequate, where strengths only just outweighed weaknesses.

Quality Indicator 1.1: Nurturing care & support

Children benefitted from kind and caring interactions with the childminder. Reassurance, comfort and cuddles were given, and the childminder was sensitive and responsive to children's needs. This helped children to feel safe and secure.

The childminder had built positive relationships with children and their families. Parents were able to share information during daily chats at drop off and collection times and the childminder updated them on their child's day by sharing photographs and messages on electronic platforms WhatsApp and Family App. Consistent communication supported continuity of care for children and ensured parents felt included in their child's day.

Snacks and meals were provided by the service and the childminder was aware of children's allergies and food preferences. The childminder provided cold meals for lunch with some healthy options such as fresh fruit for snacks, supporting children's health and wellbeing. The childminder had shared a food menu and allergen information with families to keep them informed of the foods provided. All parents who responded to our questionnaire confirmed that their child could always choose from a range of healthy snacks and meals that reflected their individual needs. This approach enabled children's dietary and nutritional needs to be met.

Children's overall wellbeing was supported through the childminder's knowledge and understanding of the children in their care. Parents told us, "Kirsty has asked what I would like for my child to develop as part of their personal development plan and this is mutually agreed" and "Kirsty asked about what I would like my child to develop and we have been working on this at my request". The childminder had personal plans for younger children, however, some key information was missing, such as children's start dates and there was no plans in place for school aged children. The childminder should ensure all children have a personal plan which clearly outlines their health, welfare and safety needs and how these will be met. This was an area for improvement made at the childminder's last inspection, which was not met and is repeated within this report. To support the childminder with improving children's plans, we have signposted them to Care Inspectorate's 'guide for providers on personal planning.'

The childminder had previously undertaken a qualification in social care and had recently reviewed an activity pack on how to provide play experiences for children with Autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). This supported their knowledge of how to support children's individual needs. The childminder confidently spoke us through the needs of each child in their care, however, there were no support plans in place for children who may require additional support. We discussed with the childminder how children would benefit from having a well documented plan in place and an assessment of risk undertaken as this would ensure their individual needs could be met. In addition, the childminder would benefit from implementing chronologies to ensure key events in children's lives were documented. This would ensure children consistently received care and support that meets their needs (area for improvement 1).

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play & learning

Children benefitted from kind interactions which supported their learning and development. The childminder chatted with the children and encouraged them to share toys and take turns. This promoted cooperative play and helped children develop friendships.

A range of toys, books and resources were available to children, and we found these to be clean, in good condition and appropriate for children's individual stage of development. As a result, children were having fun, playing together and engaged in their play.

Children's play and learning was supported by regular access to their wider community. The childminder planned community experiences during school holidays and we sampled photographs which showed children having fun and enjoying a range of community events. This approach supported children's wellbeing and sense of belonging.

The childminder carried out observations of some children to help plan interesting activities relevant to their age and stage of development. However, observations did not always contain children's next steps or show how children were sufficiently supported or challenged through play. This meant there were limited approaches in place to evaluate children's progress and achievements. We discussed with the childminder how planning processes should be developed, and we suggested that the childminder continues with their plans to record and share observations and next steps for all children within the Family App. This would enable the childminder to provide fun, exciting and challenging experiences that meet children's interests and developmental needs, supporting them to achieve their full potential. This was an area for improvement made at the childminder's last inspection, which was not met and is repeated within this inspection report.

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure all children experience care and support that meets their needs, the childminder should review and improve their procedures for Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC). This should include, but is not limited to; ensuring all children who have an identified support need, have a clear support plan and risk assessment in place outlining their individual needs and how these will be met. The childminder should also implement chronologies to ensure significant events in children's lives are recorded and tracked. This will ensure all children receive the support at the right time.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'My care and support meets my needs and is right for me' (HSCS 1.19).

How good is our setting?**4 - Good**

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

Quality Indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities

The childminder's home environment was clean, tidy and free from clutter. Risk assessments were used to identify how potential identified hazard could be reduced. This meant the childminder's home was well maintained and organised for children, supporting them to play and learn safely.

Children were cared for in an environment that was homely and welcoming. The dedicated play space was located within the conservatory and provided sufficient space for children to explore and play. There was a

variety of play resources and toys available indoors which were easily accessible to children, enabling them to lead their own play and make independent choices.

The use of local amenities supported children to develop their awareness and connection to their local community. The childminder regularly visited local parks, organised events and went on community walks. These opportunities enhanced children's play and learning experiences and supported their health and wellbeing.

The childminder had two pet dogs that had some contact with minded children. We met the dogs during inspection and found them to be friendly. The childminder had developed a pet policy and risk assessment taking into consideration aspects of children's safety and permission from parents had been obtained for some children to have contact with the dogs. To ensure all children can be provided with opportunities for them to learn key life skills involved in caring for animals, parental permission should be sought for all children attending the service, unless individual families choose not to consent.

Information held on children was stored securely, limiting unauthorised access and maintaining children and families confidentiality.

How good is our leadership?

3 - Adequate

We evaluated this key question as adequate, where strengths only just outweighed weaknesses.

Quality Indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The childminder shared their aims for the service at enrolment and their aim to provide a clean, safe and secure environment for children to play and learn was evident throughout the ethos of the service.

Parents were able to give some feedback on the service received through daily discussions during drop off and collection times and some use of questionnaires. The childminder's Certificate of registration was displayed for parents inspection during minding hours, and they were provided with copies of policies and procedures when registering with the service. This provided parents with opportunities to comment on service delivery and influence improvements.

The childminder had prioritised developing an improvement plan for their service which outlined their plans to introduce floor-book planning systems, implement Family App to share observations of children with parents and maximise opportunities to support children's language development. The childminder should now continue to implement these improvements to secure positive outcomes for children.

There was further scope to develop quality assurance and self-evaluation processes to support continuous improvement through a more formalised approach. The childminder would benefit from making use of Care Inspectorate's 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged childcare' along with the bitesize resources available on Care Inspectorate's Hub to support the development of quality assurance systems. This will support positive outcomes for children and families. This was an area for improvement made at the childminder's previous inspection which had not been met, and is repeated within this inspection report.

How good is our staff team?

3 - Adequate

We evaluated this key question as adequate, where strengths only just outweighed weaknesses.

Quality Indicator 4.1: Staff skills, knowledge and values

Children benefited from a kind and caring approach which helped them feel safe. They developed friendships with each other, learnt about sharing and boundaries which promoted positive experiences and life skills. As a result of the childminder's approach, children felt secure.

The childminder benefitted from the support of local childminders who shared their experience and knowledge. This provided informal opportunities for the childminder to become familiar with early learning and childcare practice guidance. All parents who responded to our questionnaire agreed that they were confident that the childminder had the appropriate skills, knowledge and experience to care for their child and support their learning. Comments made included. "I know my child is safe and well looked after. Kirsty provides a great service" and "My child is always happy going to Kirsty's and feels safe there." This told us that families were happy with the service they received.

The childminder had attended some core training such as food hygiene, child protection and first aid. However, we found that they did not consistently apply knowledge gained from training in to practice. For example the childminder had undertaken infection prevention and control training and was not always demonstrating good practice in this area. The approach to hand hygiene was inconsistent, children did not wash their hands prior to or after meals. The childminder's approach to personal care routines had the potential to cause infection to spread. The childminder did not use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment such as glove and aprons when changing nappies and the changing mat was not cleaned as required after use. We asked that the childminder reviews their infection prevention and control procedures to ensure they are reflective of Health Protection Scotland's guidance, 'Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings (Day Care and Childminding Settings)' (area for improvement 1).

The childminder was aware of their responsibility in safeguarding children. They were committed to keeping children safe from harm and had attended relevant training. At our last inspection, we asked that the childminder review and update their child protection policy in line with current legislation. This had not been completed and we encouraged the childminder to action this to ensure parents have access to the most current information.

Areas for improvement

1. To limit the possible spread of infection the childminder should review and improve their approach to hand hygiene and nappy changing procedures to ensure they are reflective of Health Protection Scotland's guidance, "Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings (Day Care and Childminding Settings)".

This is to ensure the service complies with the Health and Social Care Standards which states; "I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice" (HSCS 4.11).

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

To ensure children's needs can be met, the childminder should develop personal plans for all children registered to attend her service. Personal plans should identify how the childminder plans to meet children's health, welfare and safety needs whilst in their care and personal plans should be reviewed with children and parents at least every six months or sooner where required.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that; "My personal 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).

This area for improvement was made on 8 August 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder had recently started to introduce personal plans for young children. However, it was not always clear how children's needs would be met. The childminder had not developed plans for school aged children attending the setting. Therefore, we concluded that this area for improvement was not met.

Previous area for improvement 2

To ensure the health and wellbeing of children, the childminder should register their service as a food business with their local environmental health department. Further information to support them with this is available from Food Standards Agency available at www.food.gov.uk.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that; 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice (HSCS 4.11).

This area for improvement was made on 8 August 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder had registered their childminding service with their local environmental health department. They had also developed a menu and shared this with the allergen information with families. Therefore, we concluded that this area for improvement was met.

Previous area for improvement 3

To support children achieve their full potential, the childminder should ensure children's interests and preferences are used to plan activities and resources suitable for their age and stage of development. Observations of children should be used to record and plan their progress and achievements.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that; 'As a child, I have fun as I develop my skills in understanding, thinking, investigation and problem solving, including through imaginative play and storytelling' (HSCS 1.30).

This area for improvement was made on 8 August 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder had recently introduced Family App for recording and sharing observations. This was at the very early stages of introduction with only some children having individualised observations. The childminder told us that they provided experiences in response to children's interests, however, there was no planning documentation in place to support this. The childminder had identified within their improvement plan their plans to introduce a floor-book planning system and we encouraged them to continue to develop this. We concluded that this area for improvement was not met.

Previous area for improvement 4

To support a culture of continuous improvement, the childminder should develop robust self-evaluation processes that will help them to reflect on their service and identify strengths and areas for further improvement. They should also consider more routine approaches to how they seek views of parents and children to evaluate their service and make improvements. This will support continuous improvement and positive outcomes for children.

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

This area for improvement was made on 8 August 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder had informally reflected on what they could improve within their service and had developed an improvement plan to support them implement the improvements. However, formal self-evaluation and further involvement of children and families is needed to ensure improvements are formed from the needs, wishes and aspirations of all people using the service. We concluded that this area for improvement was not met.

Previous area for improvement 5

In order to keep up to date with developments in childcare practice, the childminder should identify and attend suitable training opportunities and/or undertake appropriate self-directed study. This should include but is not limited to sourcing guidance and literature on child development, first aid and Education Scotland's guidance document realising the ambition: being me. This will support them with meeting individual children's needs.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that; 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice (HSCS 4.11).

This area for improvement was made on 8 August 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder had undertaken some training and professional reading to support them in their role. They should continue with their plans to engage with professional learning including reviewing Education Scotland's guidance document realising the ambition: being me. We concluded that this area for improvement was met.

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

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