

Beveridge, Julie Child Minding

Lochgelly

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
2 April 2025

Service provided by:
Julie Beveridge

Service provider number:
SP2012983887

Service no:
CS2012310590

About the service

Julie Beveridge provides a childminding service from their family home in Lochgelly, Fife. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of five children up to 16 years of age. The service is close to the local primary school and nursery, shops, park, and woodland. Children have access to the living room, kitchen, and bathroom.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 1 April 2025 between 09:40 and 11:40. We provided feedback on Wednesday 2 April 2025 by telephone call. One inspector carried out the inspection.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service.

This included registration and any complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke with one child using the service
- reviewed feedback from four families using MS forms
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

Children experienced warm, nurturing care which helped them feel safe, secure and loved.

Effective communication with families provided continuity of care for the children.

The childminder made effective use of facilities locally and in the wider community which supported children to make meaningful connections with their community.

We raised safety concerns in relation to the volume of resources and equipment stored within the childminders home.

To ensure spaces are safe for children the childminder must ensure that play spaces and walkways are clear and clutter free.

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?	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?

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 1.1: Nurturing care and support

Children were supported by the childminder who was warm, patient and nurturing in their interactions. All families who responded to our MS forms questionnaire strongly agreed that they had positive connections with the childminder. Some comments included:

"My children are relaxed and excited to go each week."

"I am beyond grateful for the exceptional care and love Julie has provided for my children. Their dedication, patience, and creativity shine through every day, creating a safe and stimulating environment. The bond they've formed is heart warming, and we couldn't ask for a more attentive and reliable childminder."

The childminder knew children and families very well. It was clear that close bonds had been developed with children. Daily communication between the childminder and families ensured that families were involved in their child's care and their individual home routines and preferences were respected. One parent told us that "the children trust Julie and always talk about their day with her."

The childminder spoke confidently about children's individual care needs and how children were supported. The childminder valued each child's unique preferences and personalities. As a result, children were respected, and their needs and choices were met.

Personal plans were in place for the children containing basic information to help the childminder support them. These had been developed since the last inspection, for example, they had key information about children's preferences, interests and care routines, this approach supported continuity and consistency in meeting children's individual needs. Older children were actively involved in completing their personal plans showing that they were included and valued in their care.

Children experienced a relaxed and sociable snack time. Children sat comfortably and safely at the table while they ate. These opportunities helped children to build their social skills through real life experiences. The childminder provided children with their snacks. They had a choice of fruit and drank from their own bottles. Children were involved in menu planning and choosing healthy foods.

We discussed safe sleep arrangements with the childminder for children who would require a rest or sleep. At the time of the inspection no children were sleeping. The childminder discussed with us what arrangements were in place and there was scope to improve this for children. To support best practice, we signposted the childminder to safer sleep for babies: guide for parents and carers (Scottish Government, 2022).

Children were protected from harm by the childminder who understood their role and responsibilities towards keeping children safe. The childminder was confident in recognising and responding appropriately to any concerns. We asked the childminder to prioritise child protection update training to ensure their knowledge and understanding was up to date.

No children were receiving medication at the time of inspection; however, the childminder spoke confidently about how to store and administer medication. A medication policy and related paperwork was in place.

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children made choices about their play and independently accessed a range of toys and resources which were age appropriate. For example, children engaged in using construction toys to build models. We asked the childminder to streamline resources to fully support independent access. This would also ensure that spaces were safe.

The childminder was knowledgeable about children's individual interests and how to support these. This approach promoted play experiences that were meaningful and interesting, encouraging children to direct their own play and learning.

Children had developed positive connections with their local community. They regularly accessed local initiatives such as the community shop. During school holiday periods children benefitted from 'Café Inc' which provided hot meals and an opportunity for local families to socialise and eat together. These opportunities enhanced children's awareness of the community that they live in. Children continued to visit the local library to take part in bookbug sessions further enhancing their community connections.

Children benefitted from resources that promoted literacy and numeracy through play. For example, we saw a variety of books and children regularly enjoyed story time to encourage communication skills of the youngest children.

The childminder interacted with children in a responsive and nurturing way. The childminder used open-ended questioning, which supported the young children to develop skills in understanding, thinking and problem solving. This approach encouraged children to feel valued and included. This supported children to develop their confidence and feel secure in the service.

How good is our setting?

3 - Adequate

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

Quality Indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities

Children experienced a welcoming environment, in which they were familiar. They played with a variety of resources in the living room area. However, we were concerned about children's safety due to the volume of resources and equipment stored within the childminders home. This posed potential risk of harm to children as some items were stored on top of each other at height. We asked the childminder to clear away all unnecessary items to ensure that spaces and walkways were clear and safe for children to access. (see requirement 1)

Since the last inspection the childminder had provided suitable storage units to support independent access to some resources. We found that due to the volume of resources, books and toys within the living room children were only able to access these resources independently. We asked the childminder to further streamline resources to ensure spaces were safe, attractive, exciting and promoted independence. (see requirement 1)

Since the last inspection some improvements had been made to both the kitchen and bathroom areas. There was still scope to improve on this further to ensure children experienced a clean and well-maintained environment. (see requirement 1)

The childminder had developed some written risk assessments since the last inspection. For example, when out in the community the childminder had risk assessed the regular places they visited. This helped to keep children safe in their local community. We asked the childminder to use this approach within the home to ensure children were safe and protected from harm within the setting.

Children were encouraged to be physically active and get fresh air, as they walked to and from Nursery and School as part of their daily routine. They also had opportunities to be involved in their local community, visiting the community shop, and taking part in local events.

Requirements

1. By 1 June 2025, in order to promote children's safety and wellbeing and reduce their risk of harm, the childminder must take the following actions to improve the volume and storage of resources and equipment within the home. This includes;

- removal of outdoor toys and equipment at front door, to protect children from the risk of items falling from height.
- removal of excess resources, clothes, equipment from hallway and stairs to ensure clear walkways and exits this will maintain safety for all children.
- further streamlining of all toys and resources within the living room in order to create a pleasant and safe play space for children.
- deep clean of bathroom extractor fan and to remove the mould on the bathroom ceiling to reduce risk to children's health.
- ensure there is effective ventilation within the home by having windows open in bathroom and living room.
- removal of excess items from kitchen worktops to ensure all food preparation areas can be effectively cleaned and maintained.
- removal of items from back door area to ensure a clear and safe exit.
- completion of full risk assessments for the home which are relevant to the service, and which identify appropriate action needed to be taken to keep children safe.

This is to ensure all spaces that children use are clean, well maintained, clutter free and safe at all times.

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)

It is also necessary 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, where strengths only just outweighed weaknesses.

Quality Indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvement and led well

Positive and trusting relationships had been made as children and families had used the service for several years. It was important to the childminder that these relationships were developed with new families. Daily communication took place informally at drop off and collection time. This supported open communication and sharing of information. To further support each family's sense of inclusion, the childminder used a text messaging platform to communicate with families and share photographs of their child's day. The childminder was confident that through these positive relationships, families could raise any issues if they needed to.

The childminder had some policies in place that supported the running of the service. These were shared with parents so that they knew what to expect from the service. We discussed that these policies should be regularly reviewed to ensure they reflect current guidance and best practice.

The childminder had not undertaken any formal self-evaluation. They used verbal feedback from families to evaluate their service. This approach was beginning to support the childminder to recognise what they did well and to look at ways to improve their service. To develop the self-evaluation processes further, we signposted the childminder to the Care Inspectorate Hub to access documents to support self-evaluation processes. For example, 'A quality framework for day care of children, childminding and school-aged childcare' and other good practice documents that would help them to reflect on the service more formally and contribute to continuous improvement.

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: Skills, knowledge and values

The childminder recognised the importance of nurture and building strong attachments with children. Their warmth and kindness supported children to feel valued, loved and included. The childminder understood individual children's cues and body language, this enabled them to meet their needs and support younger children who were developing their language and communication.

The childminder regularly consulted children on activities and outings, understanding that each child was an individual with their own preferences. Each year the childminder and older children worked together to develop a summer holiday plan, this empowered children to plan adventures and outings. This supported children to feel included and show their views were valued.

The childminder was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association. This provided opportunities to

develop knowledge and reflect on their practice. We encouraged the childminder to engage with relevant training materials available as this would help to deepen their knowledge and understanding in supporting positive outcomes for children and their families.

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 are protected from the risk of infection, the childminder should ensure food preparation areas and the bathroom are clutter free. This would support effective infection control procedures and cleaning practices. This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well-maintained premises, furnishings and equipment' (HSCS 5.24).

This area for improvement was made on 5 July 2024.

Action taken since then

Since the last inspection the childminder had made limited progress. There was still scope to further clear surfaces in the kitchen area to ensure effective cleaning. The bathroom had been cleared of items however there was mould present and this posed a risk to children's health and wellbeing. A requirement has now been made.

Previous area for improvement 2

To support children's learning and development and allow them to make choices, the childminder should ensure all toys and resources are appropriately stored. These should be easily accessible for all children and kept in a well-maintained environment. This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I choose, and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity' (HSCS 2.27).

This area for improvement was made on 5 July 2024.

Action taken since then

Since the last inspection some storage units have been introduced to the living room which supports children to independently access some resources. However due to the volume of resources and equipment within all areas of the home, children's safety could be compromised. A requirement has now been made.

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?	3 - Adequate
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	3 - Adequate

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