

McLaren, Christine

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Announced
Inspection completed on: 9 February 2017

Service provided by:
McLaren, Christine

Service provider number:
SP2014985924

Care service number:
CS2014325862

The service

Introduction

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 28 January 2015.

Mrs McLaren provides a childminding service in a residential area of a large city..

She has local amenities like schools, nurseries, parks and places where community groups meet and offer activities within walking distance of her home.

Mrs McLaren is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any time under the age of 16 of whom no more than six may be under 12 years old, three not yet attending primary school and no more than one under 12 months. This includes children in Mrs McLaren's own family.

She aims to " provide a safe and secure environment for the kids; a clean environment in which kids can play and learn; provide stimulating activities that are appropriate to the age of the kids; encourage and develop language and communication through a range of play, story telling and other activities; promote good behaviour through praise, encouragement and guidance; be a positive role model; promote social skills"

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. Getting it right for every child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child. They are: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators, We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report after an announced inspection. This was carried out by one inspector. The inspection took place on Thursday 9 February 2017 between 09:00 and 11:15.

As part of the inspection, we took account of the completed annual return and self assessment forms that we asked the childminder to complete and send to us.

During this inspection process, we gathered evidence from various sources, including the following:

- We spoke with the childminder and observed her working with the child in her care on the day of our visit.
- We took account of feedback parents gave us in questionnaires.

We looked at:

- Information the childminder gathers about children to help her plan their care and support
- Ways she reviews children's progress and identifies what support and experiences they need next towards their learning and development
- Ways the childminder shares information and gives parents and children a say in the care and experiences she provides
- Other records she maintains about children including reports of accidents and incidents and medicines she has provided.

We discussed:

- Personal development the childminder has undertaken
- What the childminder has developed in her service since the last inspection.

Views of people using the service

We met one of the young children the childminder currently cares for.

The child was happy and confident with the childminder and they spoke warmly about outings and activities they had done together.

Three parents returned our inspection questionnaire. They were happy with what the childminder provided and they said their children were happy.

They said the childminder regularly gave them updates about their child and they would find her easy to approach if they had any concerns.

Self assessment

We received a completed self assessment from the childminder about how she cares for and supports children, the environment she provides for them and how she manages her childminding service.

The childminder gave a relevant account of what she thought she does well and what she has updated and developed further. She also told us how she involves parents and children who use the childminding service in planning and improving the care, support and experiences she provides.

She should continue to show through the self assessment how children benefit from what she does.

What the service did well

Mrs McLaren develops good relationships with parents and children and she gives them good opportunities to have a say about the care and experiences she provides.

Children enjoy lots of different play activities whether they are at home with Mrs McLaren or out in the community walking, visiting parks or attending local facilities where they can join in events with other children.

Mrs McLaren is keen to learn about new childminding practice and she does so by reading and attending training.

What the service could do better

Mrs McLaren should continue to use self evaluation and the views of parents and children to assess what she does well in her childminding service and what she could improve.

She should also:

- evidence through her written pet policy and a pet risk assessment all measures she uses to keep children safe from family pets
- obtain parent's written consent to their child having contact with her family pets
- consider making a separate area for her dog in the garden as a safeguard against children coming into contact with dog fouling and becoming unwell.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder was good at caring for and supporting children.

The childminder and the nursery aged child with her had a warm, natural relationship. The way they talked to us about some of the activities they had shared showed that these were fond memories for them both.

The child also very easily asked the childminder for their choice of activities during our visit and for the childminder to join in their play both of which showed the child's trust and confidence being with the childminder.

Children had a good range of experiences which helped them learn. They tried out new crafts like making paper mache models. They did simple cookery like making cakes and pizza which let them see the ingredients and methods to make home cooked foods from scratch.

Children took part in activities at local community venues which meant they socialised with other children and learned to play kindly in larger groups of people.

Children were also regularly active, walking and playing in local parks being routine in their day which was good for them staying fit and well.

Parents say in their child's care and experiences with the childminder was good.

Their feedback to us confirmed the childminder involved them. She asked for their views and wishes for their child's care. She regularly shared information with them about their achievements and she involved them in reviewing their child's progress which let them contribute to decisions about the developments they needed help with next.

As evidence of this we advised the childminder to record in each child's personal plan dates of reviews held with parents and the decisions they reached with her about the support she would provide next for the child.

Parents were keen for the childminder to use social media to communicate with them and this is working well as an instant way to provide news , updates and reassurance that their child is settled and for parents to comment back.

We advised the childminder to take all precautions to ensure this is a secure method of communication which will not put children at risk.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder provided a good environment.

Parents were satisfied that their children had safe surroundings. The childminder demonstrated to us that she had considered possible hazards to children in her home and put suitable measures in place to limit these causing children harm. This included her preparing a pet policy as the family has a dog.

We discussed some developments with her in regard to safeguarding children further from risks associated with dogs.

The childminder should evidence through her written pet policy and pet risk assessment the precautions she takes to limit risk to children's health when they have allergy/sensitivity to pet hair and what she does currently to ensure children do not come into contact with dog fouling in her garden. (See recommendation 1) She had taken these things into account but had not written them in her policy.

We suggested that, in future, she considers a separate area for her dog in the garden as a way to manage dog fouling effectively.

We also advise the childminder to obtain parent's written consent to their child having contact with her family pets. (See recommendation 2)

The living room provided children with comfortable seating to relax, table top and floor space to play the games of their choice and a dining area to enjoy a chat over meals.

The childminder lived in a flat meaning all the accommodation children used was easily accessible as it was on one level. For children who could manage without the childminder's help, this meant, for example, that they could independently use the toilet facilities which also added to the privacy they had.

The childminder helped children stay well through promoting good personal hygiene. This included regular handwashing which the young child with her demonstrated well, showing it was a habit they were familiar following.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. Pet Safety - The childminder should evidence through her written pet policy and pet risk assessment all measures she uses to keep children safe from family pets.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 2 A Safe Environment; Standard 3 Health and Well Being; Standard 14 Well Managed Service

2. Parental permissions - The childminder should obtain parent's written consent to their child having contact with her family pets.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 2 A Safe Environment; Standard 14 Well Managed Service.

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We consider that the childminder was good at managing her service.

She followed a professional approach to childminding. This included ensuring positive working relationships with parents which promoted them being involved in decisions about the care and experiences she provided for their child.

She supported their preferred ways for giving feedback so that she was most likely to hear their views and suggestions regularly.

She drew from her personal family experience , from reading current childcare guidance and from attending training and developed a well informed approach which followed up to date practice standards.

For example, from children's records , we saw that she had found out about the Scottish government's planning approach for children (GIRFEC) and was using the health and well being outcomes (SHANARRI) this promoted to think about the progress children were making and the developments she could support them with next.

Through speaking with the childminder about risky play, we found that she understood children needed to experience reasonable risk in order to become confident and able to keep themselves safe.

However, she also understood her responsibility to protect children should she become aware of concerns that they were being harmed. She had attended child protection training and, through this, was aware of how to report these concerns to the appropriate authorities and in doing so, contribute to safeguarding the child.

She was keen to help children spend time outdoors playing and getting exercise and her choice to attend an Outdoor Play conference was a useful way of her gathering information to develop her approach.

We suggested the Care Inspectorate's My World Outdoors guidance as another source of information and ideas.
<http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/279348/my-world-outdoors-sharing-good-practice-in-how-early-years-services-can-provide-play-and-learning-wholly-or-partially-outdoors.pdf>

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

The childminder must update her policy and procedures for the administration of medication.

NCS Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 3, Health and Wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 13 January 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder has reviewed her policy and we concluded it contained the main points of current recommended practice although the guidance she had based this on was not what we normally advise. We shared this guidance and advise the childminder to carry out a further review of her policy against this.

<http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/189567/childrens-service-medication-guidance.pdf>

Recommendation 2

The childminder should purchase and wear PPE when dealing with body fluids.

NCS Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 3, Health and Wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 13 January 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had acquired disposable gloves and aprons for use when changing children in line with current infection prevention guidance.

Recommendation 3

The childminder should identify and access training/learning opportunities which enable her to develop her skills and keep up-to-date with current childcare practice.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to 16: Standard 6.5 -Support and Development.

This recommendation was made on 13 January 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had completed a range of training including first aid, food safety, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, child protection, outdoor play and learning and building the ambition <http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/201173/national-practice-guidance-on-early-learning-2014.pdf>.

Complaints

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

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
23 Nov 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	3 - Adequate
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate

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