

Reid, Sara Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 8 February 2017

Service provided by:
Reid, Sara

Service provider number:
SP2009976192

Care service number:
CS2009234447

The service

Introduction

Sara Reid has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since 2010 to provide a care service for a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own family. The upstairs bedrooms are not to be used for childminding purposes and overnight care will not be provided.

The childminder provides her service from her own home located within the village of Kintore, Aberdeenshire. The property is well situated to access local schools, parks and amenities. The children have access to the living room, kitchen and downstairs cloakroom. There is a fully enclosed garden at the rear of the property for outdoor play.

Aims of the service include being "committed to provide a safe and secure environment in which children can play and learn".

What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection, which took place on the 8 February 2017 between 9:00am and 12:30pm. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate Early Years Inspector.

During this inspection we spoke with the childminder and the two minded children present. We observed the care given by the childminder and looked at a number of documents including children's records, health and safety procedures and certificates of training.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). This is Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

Views of people using the service

Two children aged between 1 and 4 years were present during inspection. The children appeared happy and settled in the childminder's care and enjoyed looking at books and playing with toys. The children told us they liked going to the childminders and playing with their friends. Comments included:

- "I like playing football indoors but we use a teddy".
- "These are Zomblings. You buy them from the shops".

For this inspection we received one completed Care Standards Questionnaire (CSQ). Comments were very positive and parents told us they were happy with the level of care given to their child. Comments included:

- "There are lots of opportunities for different activities. After school they mainly draw, do crafts, walk the dogs and play on the trampoline".

Self assessment

We did not receive a self-assessment from the childminder. We discussed the importance of this document and advice was given to ensure it is evaluative and meaningful.

What the service did well

The childminder had a warm and welcoming manner and provided a homely service which catered well to the individual needs of the children. The children were able to choose from a range of toys and games suitable for their age and stage of development. The children benefitted from daily opportunities to access fresh air when walking to school or nursery.

What the service could do better

The childminder should develop personal plans for the children to consider their likes, dislikes and preferences and routines from home to support a continuity of care. The childminder should continue to access training and new guidance to support and improve the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We found that the childminder had a good understanding of her role and responsibilities in meeting children's care and support needs.

The childminder used a variety of methods to inform and reassure parents and had developed friendly and positive relationships. For example a secure computer application was used to share photographs of the children at play.

To help keep the children safe, the childminder collated information including the children's contact details and allergy information before the child started at the service. However, information about children's daily routines, likes and dislikes were not recorded to support a continuity of care.

Children's records were not reviewed with parents every six months as required by legislation (**see Recommendation 1**).

Opportunities were available for young children to sleep and rest. A travel cot was available for use however, the

children preferred to sleep in a pushchair. This is not supported by Sleep Safe Scotland and further information can be found at: <http://www.scottishcotdeathtrust.org/skyblucms/resources/early-years-guide.pdf>

To help ensure the safety of the children, the childminder told us she would discuss this further with parents.

In order to safeguard children the childminder had attended recent child protection training and was able to tell us the correct procedures to follow if concerned about the welfare of a child. We asked about children's health needs and we looked at her records for administering medication. We previously recommended a review of the medication policy to reflect current best practice and this had been completed using the document, the Management of Medication in Daycare of Children and Childminding Services. This recommendation had been met.

During the inspection we observed a very positive, nurturing relationship between the minded children and the childminder. We saw the childminder model good speech when reading stories to the children, supporting their language development. The childminder supported and chatted with the children during snack helping them feel happy, relaxed and included.

The childminder promoted a healthy lifestyle and provided nutritious fruit snacks and home cooked meals. The children were mainly offered water or milk to drink which supported good dental health. Regular opportunities were available for the children to access fresh air when walking to and from school. Children were encouraged to be active with regular walks with the dogs and visits to the local parks.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. To ensure a continuity of care, help meet children's needs and help keep children safe, the childminder must:

- (a) Develop personal plans for the children recording their routines, preferences, likes and dislikes.
- (b) Ensure children's records are reviewed and updated with parents every six months or earlier if necessary.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 13: Improving the Service

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We found that the childminder had a very good understanding of practices to maintain a safe environment.

The environment was warm, comfortable and supported children's choice with a variety of age appropriate toys. The spacious living room supported children's interests with plenty of room to play toys and games or to relax and play quietly. We saw photographic evidence of the younger children enjoying messy play and the older

children enjoying art and craft activities. This helped develop creativity and enquiry skills.

The fully enclosed garden kept children safe within the boundaries of the property. Children were able to run around and play games on a spacious grassed area. Outdoor toys were stored in a shed for the winter helping to keep them in good repair. The document, My World Outdoors, gives examples of inexpensive outdoor play opportunities. This can be found at: <http://hub.careinspectorate.com/>

Risk assessments to identify potential hazards and prevent accidents had been completed for outings, indoor and outdoor play; however a further risk assessment should be completed for the family dogs (**see Recommendation 1**).

The childminder made good use of the local environment and frequently visited local parks and took the children on outings. This ensured the children were getting to know their local environment, helping them grow into responsible, confident individuals.

We noted the childminder followed appropriate infection and control procedures to keep the children safe and well. Kitchen towels were provided for the children to dry their hands to prevent cross contamination. The childminder described appropriate nappy changing procedures, however a changing mat and disposable aprons were not available for use. The childminder immediately ordered a mat and more aprons to prevent contamination when dealing with spillages and body fluids.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. To ensure the safety of the children and help prevent possible accidents, the childminder should develop a risk assessment for any family pets.

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

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We found that the quality of management and leadership was good.

The childminder demonstrated a commitment to providing a quality service. Her friendly reassuring manner meant that she provided a good service that was supportive and caring to the families she works with. The importance of working in partnership with the children and their families was valued. This led to positive outcomes for children using the service.

The childminder was a member of Morton Michel and had used their site to help develop her children's records, contracts and permissions to help keep children safe.

The childminder had reviewed her policies and procedures to ensure they were current and supported good practice guidelines. However, the child protection policy did not reference the document National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014. This can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00450733.pdf>. The childminder advised us she would update the document.

To help keep children safe and well, the childminder had completed training in child protection, first aid and food hygiene. The childminder was a member of the local childminding group and had attended some training on current national childcare policy. We discussed further training opportunities to support the needs of the children in her care **(see Recommendation 1)**.

The childminder had not completed the Care Inspectorate self-assessment to support improvement to her service. We discussed ensuring statements were evaluative and used to identify areas for development.

Parents were encouraged to complete annual questionnaires to support improvement to the service. The results were very positive, however they did not identify areas for development. We discussed making the questionnaires more specific and focussed with open ended questions to encourage parents to participate. Children were involved in choosing toys and activities and completed a simple questionnaire. However, opportunities for the older children to record their likes and dislikes to support their enjoyment of activities and games were not available. We discussed using mind maps as a possible method to gather children's views and opinions **(see Recommendation 2)**. Information about involving children can be found at: <http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/274540/practiceguideinvolvingchildrenandyp>.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. To improve outcomes for children, the childminder should develop her knowledge and skills relevant to the children in her care. The Care Inspectorate online service The Hub, provides information about recent guidance and procedures. This can be found at:

<http://hub.careinspectorate.com/>

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 13: Improving the Service

2. To support improvement to her service and help meet the needs of the children in her care, the childminder should further develop systems to record children's ideas, likes and dislikes.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 5: Quality of Experience

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

There are no outstanding recommendations.

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	
5 Nov 2012	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
23 Nov 2011	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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