

Butler, Michelle and Stephen Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 7 February 2017

Service provided by:
Butler, Michelle & Stephen

Service provider number:
SP2003905856

Care service number:
CS2003011986

The service

Introduction

This service has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since April 2011.

Michelle and Stephen Butler (the childminders) are registered to provide a care service to a maximum of eight children under the age of 16 years, of whom a maximum of six will be under 12 of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months of age. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminders' family.

Overnight care may not be provided.

They provide the service from their family home, which is situated on a modern estate in Mid Calder. Minded children have access to the sitting room/dining room, kitchen and bathroom on the ground floor. There is a back garden which is equipped with a large range of outdoor equipment and they sometimes play outside with the childminder on an area free from traffic.

Michelle is a qualified nursery nurse who is highly experienced in childcare and has approximately 14 years experience as a childminder.

Stephen works full time outwith the childminding service but due to his shift pattern is often at home and is registered as a childminder so he can play an active part in the life of the childminding service.

What we did during our inspection

We completed this report following a short announced inspection, which took place between 12:15 and 13:45 on Tuesday 7 February 2017. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate early years inspector.

During the inspection we spoke to the childminder. We observed the care given by the childminder and looked at a number of documents including planning information, children's records and the methods in place for evaluating the service. We also looked at the childminding environment and considered the experiences of the children.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), 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 services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

Views of people using the service

On the day of this inspection there were two minded children present, the older child played happily during our visit. Observing the interaction between them and the childminder we saw that they appeared comfortable in her care and the childminder was very attentive throughout our visit.

We asked the childminder to pass on our contact details to parents who used her service so that they could give us their feedback on the service they received if they wished.

Self assessment

The service explained the reasons for not submitting the self-assessment. We were satisfied by this response.

What the service did well

Families had continued to receive high quality childcare from a professional and motivated childminder. Children experienced child centred care which made them feel nurtured and valued.

What the service could do better

The service should continue to provide families with a high standard of service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The service was performing well in this area. We concluded this after observing the interactions between the childminder and children present.

The childminder had developed very good approaches to settling children in to her service. These included inviting parents for an initial visit so that they could get to know each other and discuss the new child's specific care and support needs. Gathering information at this time gave the childminder an overview of the child coming into her care enabling her to develop a care plan so that she could meet their individual needs. Encouraging new parents to attend the local toddler group with her provided them with opportunities to meet the other children and parents their child would be meeting. This very good practice gave parents an insight as to how their child would be spending their time in the childminder's care.

Parents felt respected and included because the childminder acknowledged them as the expert in their child's care and as such she told us that she frequently touched base throughout the day to keep them informed in their child's day-to-day care.

Children were safe and protected because the childminder had a very good understanding of what would give her cause for concern and the actions she would take to minimise potential risks. Discussions with the childminder highlighted her understanding of the more complex pre-indicators.

Tracking children's development allowed the childminder to identify the progress they were making and provide additional support as required.

For example if she felt that a child was showing developmental delays she encouraged parents to seek advice from their health visitor. This contributed to children achieving because they could get the right help from the right people at the right time.

Children's behaviour was managed sensitively using restorative approaches. For example if the childminder had to intervene to resolve conflict she used stage appropriate language to explain to children the impact their actions were having on their friends and gave them simple strategies to compromise. Inviting all children to contribute to the golden rules created a harmonious environment because the rules were meaningful and important to the children. Therefore they were more likely to try and behave appropriately.

Healthy lifestyles were routinely promoted within the service. To further increase children's awareness of healthy foods the childminder frequently took them shopping for snack and encouraged them to help prepare snack, using this time to chat about healthy eating and how it made them big and strong. Outdoor play was routine within the service and children could be found most days out at the local parks or in the back garden playing on the large active play equipment.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder's home was welcoming, bright and warm. She told us that children could come and go as they pleased and that she always tried to provide a child centred experience for them because it was important for them to have activities and toys, which met their needs and interests. As a result children were suitably stimulated and challenged.

Encouraging children to tidy up after they had finished using toys and activities helped to develop their understanding for their responsibility in looking after the toys; and keeping the environment clutter free.

Children were safe and healthy because the childminder had well-established approaches to minimise the spread of infection. For example she routinely encouraged children to wash their hands. on the day of this inspection we observed one child asking for her childminder to help her wash her hands. It was evident that this was a regular occurrence within the service. Encouraging good hand hygiene practices helped the children to develop an awareness of what they could do to prevent the spread of germs.

The childminder described how she encouraged children to experience positive risk within her service. For example playing on the large play equipment at the park. The childminder understood the need for the children to test and try their personal boundaries as a means to learn about their capabilities and how to manage risk.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The quality of management and leadership was very good and the childminder was very aware of the need to continually evaluate the work she was doing to ensure it met families needs.

She described how she networked with other childminders to discuss practice issues and further enhance her knowledge and understanding in relation to updated and best practice guidance.

Discussions with the childminder highlighted that training was linked to the needs of the children using the service. For example if a child came into her care with a medical condition then the childminder organised training to ensure that she was familiar with the condition and understood how she could support the child. This approach demonstrated to parents that she acknowledged their right to have their child cared for by a competent professional person.

Looking at children's files we reminded the childminder that they should be reviewed six monthly or sooner. We also advised her that she should be using 'Building the Ambition' (this is the newest best practice document developed by the Scottish Government to support all practitioners who are delivering early learning and childcare in different settings and areas of Scotland). Information relating to this can be found via the following link: http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/earlyyearsmatters/b/genericcontent_tcm4838406.asp

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

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

Previous requirements

Requirement 1

The provider must ensure that all relevant checks, including disclosure information (now known as Protection of Vulnerable Groups scheme), have been received for anyone living on the premises over the age of 16 years. This is to comply with:

The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 SSI 2011/210 Regulation 12(3)

This requirement was made on 1 April 2015.

Action taken on previous requirement

The childminder had taken action to ensure all those over the age of 16 years had been properly vetted.

Met - within timescales

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

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

The medication policy should be reviewed and updated in line with best practice as detailed in the Care Inspectorate guidance.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16- Standard 2 A safe environment

This recommendation was made on 1 April 2015.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had reviewed her medication policy and amended this to reflect the most up-to-date guidance in relation to this.

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								
26 Feb 2015	Unannounced	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>Not assessed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	5 - Very good	Staffing	Not assessed	Management and leadership	5 - Very good
Care and support	5 - Very good									
Environment	5 - Very good									
Staffing	Not assessed									
Management and leadership	5 - Very good									
20 Dec 2012	Announced (short notice)	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>6 - Excellent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>6 - Excellent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>Not assessed</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	6 - Excellent	Environment	5 - Very good	Staffing	6 - Excellent	Management and leadership	Not assessed
Care and support	6 - Excellent									
Environment	5 - Very good									
Staffing	6 - Excellent									
Management and leadership	Not assessed									
16 Jun 2009	Announced (short notice)	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>6 - Excellent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>6 - Excellent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>6 - Excellent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>Not assessed</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	6 - Excellent	Environment	6 - Excellent	Staffing	6 - Excellent	Management and leadership	Not assessed
Care and support	6 - Excellent									
Environment	6 - Excellent									
Staffing	6 - Excellent									
Management and leadership	Not assessed									
23 Apr 2008	Announced (short notice)	<table> <tr> <td>Care and support</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>5 - Very good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staffing</td> <td>4 - Good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management and leadership</td> <td>4 - Good</td> </tr> </table>	Care and support	5 - Very good	Environment	5 - Very good	Staffing	4 - Good	Management and leadership	4 - Good
Care and support	5 - Very good									
Environment	5 - Very good									
Staffing	4 - Good									
Management and leadership	4 - Good									

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