

Bubble's Babies Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 18 April 2017

Service provided by:
McLeod, Kathleen

Service provider number:
SP2011981776

Care service number:
CS2011281799

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 Care Inspectorate on 20 December 2012.

Bubble's Babies (Kathleen McLeod) provides a care service from her family home in the town of Darvel, East Ayrshire. She is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. The numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own family.

Any other conditions unique to the service:

2. The new extension to the home will not be used until a completion certificate is made available to the Care Inspectorate.
3. The rear garden will not be used for childminding purposes.
4. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.
5. Overnight care will not be provided

At the time of the inspection, two children were present.

A full statement of aims is available from the service.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection that took place on Wednesday 18 April 2017 between the hours of 12noon - 2.10pm. We provided the childminder with feedback on 18 April 2017.

To assess how well the childminder had been providing care to the children using the service we gathered information from a range of sources. Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) quality indicators were used to ensure a holistic approach. More information about the GIRFEC approach can be found at www.hubcareinspectorate.com.

During this inspection process, we looked around the areas of the childminders home used by the minded children and we gathered evidence from various sources, including the following:

We spoke with:

- The childminder
- Two children present during inspection.

We looked at:

- Children's information records
- Children's personal plans
- Service policy and procedures

- Risk assessments
- Parental permissions
- Accident recording forms
- Registration certificate
- Insurance certificates
- Medication records
- Self assessment
- Care standard questionnaires
- Training records
- Session planners
- Transition workbooks.

Views of people using the service

We sent out three Care Standards questionnaires and asked the childminder to give them to families who used her service. Prior to completing this inspection we received one completed care standards questionnaire. The parent wrote and told us:

"Our childminder Katie runs an absolutely fabulous service and is a natural with the kids who vary in ages and development stage".

"She is very fun and friendly and provides a home from home environment where my daughter feels very loved and comfortable".

Throughout our inspection, we observed the care provided to the minded children. We saw that the children were confident in their interactions with the childminder and they were seen to be relaxed in her care.

Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self-assessment document from the provider. We were satisfied with the way the provider completed this and with the relevant information included for each heading that we grade services under. The provider identified what it thought the service did well, some areas for development and any changes it had planned. The provider told us how the people who used the care service had taken part in the self-assessment process.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a warm, welcoming and homely environment for the children she minded. She was friendly and approachable and the children present was seen to be relaxed and comfortable in her care throughout our inspection. The childminder knew the children well and she planned and delivered good play experiences for them.

What the service could do better

During this inspection we have made three recommendations to the childminder and asked her to address these.

1. The childminder should ensure that she records administration of medication to minded children in line with the current health guidance.
2. The childminder should obtain written parental consent for minded children's contact with the family pet guinea pigs.
3. The childminder should carry out a risk assessment all areas of her home environment accessed by minded children.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder gathered a range of information on each child. This information was used to plan how she would care for each child in her care. We found the childminder effectively used this information to plan her daily routines around the individual needs of the children. To support her practice in tracking children's development the childminder used development rainbows. We sampled these and the recordings seen, were relevant for the individual children attending.

The childminder had daily discussion with the minded children's families to ensure that their child's needs were properly met. This meant that important information was considered and care decisions made in partnership with families. The parent who returned our Care Standards questionnaire told us they strongly agreed that the childminder asked for their view about how they wanted their child to be cared for. They wrote and told us "I get information back about how my daughter is progressing verbally, written/formal plans and social media updates".

Healthy lifestyles were promoted with regular opportunity for physical play, both indoors and outdoors, contributed positively to children's health and well-being. The childminder was confident in her role and responsibilities for protecting children and keeping them safe and healthy. She told us what she would do if she had any child protection concerns or concerns over a child's health and well-being. Children who were unwell did not attend the service.

There were good opportunities for children's involvement within the service. We observed conversations between the childminder and the children present that encouraged and supported the children to give their views and make decisions. We could see this supported the children to feel included in their care, offered them choices and allowed them to feel that their views were listened to.

The childminder had registered her service with the Food Standards Agency. She used 'Setting the Table' best practice guidance to direct her practice. The childminder's information on food allergies was available. This told us that the childminder supported children to make healthy choices regarding food.

We asked the childminder to tell us what she did when she had to administer medication to a child in her care. The childminder showed us her medication policy and her recording procedure which she had updated and shared with parents. We felt that the childminder had considered how she would manage the administration of medication to the minded children. We found the format of forms used to record administration of medication forms appropriate. However, the childminder had not recorded all the necessary information within the forms. We discussed the best practice guidance with the childminder and asked her to ensure that the medication records are fully completed (recommendation 1).

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The childminder should ensure that she records administration of medication to minded children in line with the current health guidance on the 'Management of Medication in Daycare and Childminding Services'.

National Care Standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16 - standard 3: health and wellbeing.

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We found that the childminder's home environment was child-friendly, well maintained, clean and welcoming for children attending the service.

There were a range of toys and resources available. We found these to be clean, in good condition, accessible and appropriate for children attending. On the day of inspection, we saw the children present choosing toys they wanted to play with, allowing them to make choices and to promote their independence.

The childminders home was spacious. A good range of resources were provided, including a television and a comfortable sofa for the children to relax on. The childminder used her family dining/kitchen for the children to do arts and crafts and eat their meals and snacks. She had considered the layout of her rooms creating a warm, nurturing environment that made good use of the space available. We saw that children could choose to play by themselves or with others. There was space for children to eat and rest when they wanted to.

During our inspection we saw that the childminder had two pet guinea pigs that lived in a large cage in her family room. The childminder had a pet policy in place, however, we found that the childminder had not obtained written permission from parents allowing their child to handle the guinea pigs. We have asked the childminder to obtain this (recommendation 1).

To ensure that she provides a safe environment for the children, the childminder told us she cleans her home environment on a daily basis.

We saw that the childminder had stored all cleaning products securely in a high level cupboard. The childminder told us how she used daily visual checks to make sure her home was hazard free, safe and child-friendly. We asked the childminder to show us risk assessments for her home environment. The childminder was unable to provide these during our visit. We have asked the childminder to complete risk assessments for all areas of her home that the minded children access (recommendation 2).

Children's health and safety was further promoted through appropriate infection control measures. The childminder's house was clean and well maintained. She was familiar with, and implemented, the guidance contained within 'Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings'. Appropriate gloves, apron and changing mats were available to ensure safe nappy changing and the childminder was trained in, and had, first aid resources.

Any accidents or incidents children had been involved in were recorded and shared with parents.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. The childminder should obtain written parental consent for minded children's contact with the family pet guinea pigs.

National Care Standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16 - standard 2: a safe environment.

2. The childminder should carry out a risk assessment of all areas of her home environment accessed by minded children. These should include safety measures she will put in place to minimise risk.

National Care Standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16 - standard 2: a safe environment.

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The childminder keeps up-to-date with best practice through a variety of ways, including her membership of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) she receives regular newsletters and updates from them.

She accessed relevant training through her local authority workforce development training calendar. She also uses the internet to keep abreast of recent childcare developments and to access e-learning. The childminder told us that she had recently joined 'minding kids' and 'childcare.co.uk' she said that she was using some resources from their websites to support her practice. We felt that the childminder had taken a balanced approach to keep her skills and professional knowledge current.

During our inspection we discussed with the childminder that she must forward documentation in relation to her property to the Care Inspectorate to ensure that amendments are made to the conditions of her registration. The childminder agreed to do this.

Parents and children were involved in the ongoing evaluation and development of the service through a range of effective approaches. Since the last inspection the childminder had taken account of training and current best practice to develop aspects of her service, including her approach to personal planning. These now included SHANARRI well-being wheels which noted children's progress and next steps in development. These were regularly reviewed and shared with parents, which promoted partnership working and meant that information about children's development was current. We discussed how the childminder could potentially reduce the amount of recording she currently does, whilst still maintaining effective and meaningful personal plans.

The childminder maintained records of training accessed. Local arrangements regarding the availability and funding of training had recently changed, and the childminder was being pro-active in finding new ways to ensure that she kept her skills and knowledge up-to-date. This demonstrated a professional approach and a commitment to keeping up-to-date with best practice to provide positive outcomes for children.

The childminder told us that she keeps parents up-to-date with details on courses she is attending and of any changes she makes to her practice as a result of training. She used a range of methods to do this including verbal communication and text messages and email.

The childminder had a clear complaints policy which was made available to parents and families in her parents pack.

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

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 should update administration, recording and storage of medication policy in line with current guidance.

National Care Standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16 – standard 3: health and well being.

This recommendation was made on 29 April 2013.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder submitted an action plan to the Care Inspectorate on 11 May 2013. They wrote and told us: This has now been updated. During this inspection visit we looked at the medication records that the childminder had completed. We found the format of forms used to record administration of medication forms appropriate. However, the childminder had not recorded all the necessary information within the forms. We discussed the best practice guidance with the childminder and asked her to ensure that the medication records are fully completed.

Recommendation 2

The childminder should have a process in place to record child protection concerns in line with current best practice.

National Care Standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16 – standard 3: health and well being.

This recommendation was made on 29 April 2013.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder submitted an action plan to the Care Inspectorate on 11 May 2013. They wrote and told us: This has been put in place. During this inspection we saw that the childminder had developed her child protection procedures and she told us she had undertaken a child protection self learning course. The childminder had also recently signed up for a child protection awareness course through East Ayrshire Council.

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	
29 Apr 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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