

Daly, Louise Child Minding

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)
Inspection completed on: 16 May 2017

Service provided by:
Daly, Louise

Service provider number:
SP2004915457

Care service number:
CS2004058783

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

Mrs Daly has been operating a childminding service since 2004 and registered with the Care Inspectorate since the Care Inspectorate was formed in 2011.

Mrs Daly is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of 6 will be under 12, of whom no more than 4 are not yet attending primary and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. Mrs Daly is currently caring for a total of 9 children, at various times, throughout the week.

The service is provided from the childminder's home in the town of Irvine. The family home is situated, within a residential housing estate at the edge of the town. The areas used to provide the service were the lounge and toilet on the ground floor.

Mrs Daly's aims include; to put every child at the centre of every aspect of the service and have every child feel cherished, loved and respected. She further aims to provide quality childcare in a fun, safe, caring environment, where children's safety and wellbeing are paramount and where children can experience a wide range of activities and outings.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an announced short notice inspection that took place between the times of 3:30pm and 6pm on Tuesday 16 May 2017. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate Early Years Inspector.

During the inspection, we spoke with the childminder, the children attending and three parents as they arrived at the service to collect their children. We observed the care given by the childminder and looked at a number of documents including; children's folders and business records.

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 the 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

Three minded children were attending the service during the inspection visit.

All children were settled and at ease in the care environment. The older children confidently chatted to us about the things they liked, including "Minions" and "Star Wars". They were also keen to demonstrate their break-dancing and athletic skills. The younger child enjoyed selecting toys from the toy tubs on the floor. He particularly enjoyed playing with the animals and taking turns in the crocodile game.

We spoke with three parents at inspection and also took account of the returned service and care standards questionnaires. Responses received indicated that all parties were happy with the quality of care their children received.

Self assessment

We did not receive a self-assessment from the childminder before the inspection took place.

We used the information contained in the annual return and 2015 self-assessment document to focus on areas for this inspection.

Information relating to how parents/carers and children are involved in decisions within the service and the quality of the service's evaluation are considered within this report.

What the service did well

Children attending the service are happy, enthusiastic and at ease in the childminder's care.

The childminder works effectively with families and other agencies to help children to progress and develop. She supports individual children well. She is responsive to children's ideas and suggestion and uses what they tell her to plan future activities and experiences.

Parents/carers are happy with the care service their children receive.

What the service could do better

The childminder should complete a risk assessment for outings.

The childminder should continue to maintain and further develop the very good standards established.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
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

We found that the childminder used a variety of written, verbal, text and parents/carers meetings to involve families in their children's care. Service questionnaire respondents confirmed that they were happy with all aspects of the care provided for their children. Sampled returns had graded the childminder highly.

A respondent comment from our questionnaire included; "Every morning she (childminder) explains what is happening and every night we review what my child has done. She is very thorough."

Mrs Daly had arranged meetings with parents/carers to discuss their children's care. She had recorded the support and development areas that parents/carers felt that she could help their children with, and in partnership with them had used this information to construct individually focussed and targeted care plans. We found care planning to be child centred and we could clearly track children's development and progress. A parent who spoke with us at inspection told us that she found these meetings to be beneficial and constructive.

The childminder worked effectively with both parents/carers and other agencies to support children and their families. She had agreed strategies with families and others to support continuity of care and to help children to progress and succeed. She was responsive to family needs and circumstances and would modify her childcare to provide additional support, for example; changing minding arrangements, supporting families on visits and collecting children from their home. This tells us that the childminder takes a holistic approach to childcare.

Throughout the inspection, we observed supportive interactions between the childminder and the children. The older children were confident in making their own play decisions and the childminder supported them with their choices. They enjoyed drawing, "lego" building, playing with puppets and were particularly enthusiastic joining in the crocodile game along with the childminder and younger child. It was evident that children were happy, relaxed and content in the childminder's care.

Older children demonstrated consideration and kindness towards the younger minded child. They cleared away his drinking cup and plate after snack and played alongside him with the floor toys. The younger child was also interested in what the others were doing and at times liked to become involved. At other times, he preferred to play with the floor toys along with the childminder. All children were content and busily engaged throughout the visit.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 - excellent

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We found the family home to be a clean, homely and comfortable environment for young children. The main indoor play area, the lounge, provided sufficient space for minded children. They could relax on the comfortable sofas or engage in floor play. A large family dining table provided older children with a good surface for drawing or craft activities and a smaller child sized table was ideal for snack, or for younger children's games or table top activities. A ground floor toilet eliminated the need for children to access the upper floor of the premises.

A wide range of toys and resources stored in the lounge and in the hallway, had been positioned to be readily accessible to small children. This enabled children to select the toys they wanted to play with. All of the toys and resources viewed were in good order and suitable for the developmental stages of the children attending. We observed that children were confident in selecting the resources they wanted to play with.

The respondent who returned our questionnaire strongly agreed that the childminder made good use of resources in the community and that children had access to a suitable range of toys and materials. They wrote "Louise always has a huge range of toys out" and "I love all the activities she does with them. They are constantly taking part in different groups, library, outings to parks, feeding ducks, soft-play."

To ensure that children were safe and protected, the childminder had completed and reviewed a risk assessment for the home environment. We discussed the benefits of completing a risk assessment for outings. The childminder told us that an annual maintenance contract was in place, to cover equipment used in the provision of the service.

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

Mrs Daly had established effective methods to include families in their children's care. (Please see information on report section on care and support). She had used the information provided by them to support children through personal planning.

The respondent who returned our questionnaire strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care their child received and that the childminder involved them when making service changes or improvement. All three parents, who spoke with us at inspection, highly valued the care and support the childminder provided for their children.

Mrs Daly had produced a comprehensive service and policy booklet, to inform parents/carers of her business standards and procedures and of her childminder training. She made use of business contracts, so that all parties were clear on all aspects of the service provision. Six monthly review dates were noted on contracts.

This indicated that the childminder had considered what information would be helpful to parents/carers in making their childcare choices. She had also secured parental permissions, for taking photographs, going on outings and for outdoor play.

Since the last inspection, Mrs Daly had attended a wide range of training sessions to add to her existing childcare knowledge and to keep up to date with best practice. This included; Building The Ambition, Promoting Positive Thinking (PATHS) and Solihull. To further improve her own professional development, she is currently studying at SVQ level 3 in Childcare and Young People. She discussed with us how she has been using this new knowledge to reflect on her practices and to further develop and improve the opportunities, experiences and outcomes for the children in her care.

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

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	
10 May 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
12 Jun 2009	Announced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
16 Jul 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	6 - Excellent

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