

Saxton, Elsie Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 5 June 2017

Service provided by:
Elsie Saxton

Service provider number:
SP2003903851

Care service number:
CS2003006533

The service

Introduction

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

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.

Mrs Saxton is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children under the age of sixteen at any one time, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. The numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own family.

The service is registered to provide care from Mrs Saxton's home in Cambuslang, South Lanarkshire. The living room, kitchen and garden areas are available to minded children. Four children were present on the day of inspection.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection carried out on 5 June 2017.

We sent care standards questionnaires to the service to distribute to relatives or carers of children who use the service. Three were returned to us before the inspection. We also received feedback from one parent by email.

During the inspection we spoke with the childminder and observed how she gave care and support to the minded children. We looked at some documents including child information records and policies and procedures.

Views of people using the service

Four minded children were present during the inspection. They were found to be happy, relaxed and confident with the childminder. They were very settled in their environment, confident to chat with us and seemed happy within the service.

Self assessment

We received a completed self-assessment document from the service provider. This contained information which identified strengths and areas for the future development of the service. This was completed to a satisfactory standard.

What the service did well

The childminder had created a warm, safe and inclusive environment for the minded children. They received a service that was tailored to meet their needs. Parents advised that they felt included and that their children enjoyed attending the service.

What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to develop her knowledge and skills through further formal training. We also discussed personal plans and supporting children through their learning and development.

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

At this inspection, we found the service to be providing a very good quality of care and support. We looked at how the childminder gathered information about minded children and how this was used to plan children's care, learning and development. This included the required information to be kept as well as good practice records.

The childminder provided various ways for parents/carers to have input into how the service is provided. She used questionnaires for more formal overall assessments of how her service is provided. Feedback was shared with parents and children which was good as it showed that their opinion was valued. Sharing information this way meant that she was able to be flexible in her approach to caring for the minded children.

Personal plans were in place and were used by the childminder to gather, plan and monitor how children were progressing. Parents and children, when appropriate, also had input into the support received from the childminder. She was very knowledgeable about the children in her care and was able to demonstrate how she met their needs. The minded children responded positively to the childminder and were confident when asking for a change of activity or when needing support.

Parents commented "Elsie communicates with me verbally almost every day, letting me know her plans, ideas and asking my opinion. I review my children's care plans regularly and respond in writing" and "Elsie's family recently got a pet dog. Elsie has taken the children into consideration and asked for our views". Minded children advised us of all the activities they were involved in at the childminders. All of the children especially enjoyed their 'Britain's Got Talent' shows where they were able to invent and showcase their creativity to each other.

We concluded that children and parents were offered very good care and support by the childminder.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

At this inspection we considered how the designated childminding areas were maintained to ensure children were safe and protected from harm and how well the childminding areas were used. All aspects considered were met. We gathered evidence through viewing the childminding areas and equipment, examining relevant records and observing how the children used the environment, local community and resources.

The childminders home was welcoming, clean and spacious. Her living room, kitchen and outside space were used by minded children to be involved in different activities. There was room to engage in both busier and quieter activities. She advised that resources changed depending on who was attending that day. Infection control procedures were in place. Children followed a routine which took their capabilities into consideration.

The childminder was able to provide a wide range of activities from her home. She also had a back garden for children to use. The minded children were able to show us how they used the space and the resources. We found she had a clear understanding of her roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children.

Parents commented about the environment "Elsie uses her back garden and also local parks. I really like Elsie and feel lucky that all my children are in her care. They love going to Elsie's and grumble when I pick them up early! They talk about the activities they enjoy there" and "Elsie's home is very clean, very safe and child friendly".

We concluded that children were being cared for from within an environment that was well maintained, had appropriate safety measures in place and was well resourced. The childminder ensured that systems were in place to keep children safe and respected their privacy.

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

At this inspection, we considered how the childminder evaluated the service, made improvements and kept informed of best practice and legislation. All aspects considered were met. We gathered evidence through viewing relevant records and discussions on training and development opportunities.

The childminder had been proactive in keeping her practice, skills and knowledge up to date. She had attended various training since her last inspection which included; pediatric First Aid, Child Development and Infection Control. She was able to discuss with us how this training had changed and improved her practice. She felt that it had a positive impact on the minded children's experience.

We discussed the new pathway for childminders and how this would be a valuable tool in developing her knowledge and skills. The childminder was able to advise us of how she had supported children and their families to ensure positive outcomes.

Parents commented "Elsie has a really nice nature - kind and relaxed but firm where needed. She is good at handling all the children and accommodating all their different needs. I am very happy with their care, but if I had queries or concerns I would be comfortable about approaching her" and "I am very happy in the care Elsie provides and am confident in her care and capabilities".

We concluded that the childminder provided a very good service which promoted children's health, safety and wellbeing and supporting them to reach positive outcomes.

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 review and develop her medication policy and procedure so that it was inline with best practice guidelines and should also include the following:

- Dosage
- Times given
- Parents confirm they have given first dose of medication in case of allergic reaction
- Details as to when medication is to be given (no as and when required statements)
- Details of what to do if a child refuses medication or if a dose is not given.

NCS 3 Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Health and Wellbeing

This recommendation was made on 10 May 2013.

Action taken on previous recommendation

This recommendation has been met. We asked the childminder to further review the layout of her recording sheets. She developed new ones after this inspection.

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	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
1 May 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
8 May 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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