

Nimmo, Louise

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)
Inspection completed on: 31 January 2018

Service provided by:
Nimmo, Louise

Service provider number:
SP2006956757

Care service number:
CS2006115942

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.

Requirements and recommendations:-

If we are concerned about some aspect of a service, or think it could do more to improve, we may make a recommendation or requirement.

- A recommendation is a statement that sets out actions the care service provider should take to improve or develop the quality of the service but where failure to do so will not directly result in enforcement.

Recommendations are based on the National Care Standards, relevant codes of practice and recognised good practice.

- A requirement is a statement, which sets out what is required of a care service to comply with the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 and Regulations or Orders made under the Act or a condition of registration. Where there are breaches of the Regulations, Orders or conditions, a requirement must be made. Requirements are legally enforceable at the discretion of the Care Inspectorate.

We are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives. The Care Inspectorate has an important role to play in supporting this approach in inspecting care services for children.

The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. It is a consistent way for people to work with all children and young people. The approach helps practitioners focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people, and how they can act to deliver these improvements. Getting it Right for Every Child is being threaded through all existing policy, practice, strategy and legislation affecting children, young people and their families.

In Scotland, the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach puts wellbeing at the very heart of its approach. The eight 'indicators' of wellbeing that form the basis of GIRFEC are - safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included - often referred to as 'SHANARRI.' Information relating to this can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

Louise Nimmo 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 one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The parts of the premises not to be used are upper floor: One bedroom 'parent room.'

Mrs Nimmo lives within close proximity of local childcare facilities.

The main aims of her service are to provide a warm, safe and child-centred home, build good working relationships with parents and be flexible and approachable at all times.

What we did during our inspection

We carried out a short notice inspection on Wednesday 31 January 2018 between 12.15 and 1.50pm.

During this inspection process we looked around the areas of the childminder's home used by minded children and gathered evidence from:

- Children's information folders.
- Information shared with parents.
- Policies including medication, child protection, settling in and infection control.
- Certificate of registration.
- Public liability insurance.
- Photographs of children participating in activities.
- Observation of practice.
- Risk assessments.
- Daily checklist to ensure the environment was safe for children.

Views of people using the service

Three pre-school children were present during the inspection. They were too young to give their views, but we saw that the children had good relationships with the childminder and were relaxed and comfortable in her care.

Parents were very satisfied with the service provided by the childminder. They told us;

'I talk to my childminder on a daily basis and also via Facebook and What's app.'

'My children have a great, varied routine with Louise. They do the school run, toddlers, park and home play and learning.'

'Louise is excellent. Couldn't ask for anyone better to look after my children. My children think of Louise as family, as I do. She brings them along so much in their development.'

'My kids are happy, content and safe. Couldn't ask for more.'

'Louise always has a variety of toys out for the children to play with. She makes good use of the local park and her garden.'

Self assessment

The childminder did not submit a self assessment before the inspection.

What the service did well

A key strength of the service was the relationships that the childminder had with the children and families. This promoted a positive, caring environment where children were happy and content.

What the service could do better

We talked to the childminder about developing the children's personal plans and ensuring six monthly reviews are recorded. She also needs to keep a record of any training or personal development undertaken.

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	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder gathered a range of information about children and used this to plan their care. She talked knowledgeably about the children she cared for and how she supported them. The childminder was familiar with Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and used the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators within plans to show how she supported children's health and wellbeing needs. She recorded information about particular areas she was supporting children with and their achievements. Ongoing communication with parents ensured there were opportunities to talk about children every day which ensured up-to-date information was regularly shared. We talked to the childminder about further developing the plans by adding information about the outcome for children. She should ensure that plans are reviewed formally with parents who should sign and date the document. (See recommendation 1).

Children's health and wellbeing was supported as they used local parks, went on outings to places of interest and joined in physical activities. Throughout the childminder interacted with children in a positive way. As she knew children well she responded to changes in their behaviour at inspection. Her calm and consistent approach had a positive outcome as boundaries were reinforced for children.

Children could choose from a range of activities suitable for their development and interests. This included cars, bricks and chunky lego. The childminder also used community resources well. For example, attending local toddler groups helped children to develop socialisation skills.

There was an appropriate system in place to record the administration of medication. We asked the childminder to remove the general consent for medication on the 'all about me' form and only get this at the time a child requires to be given medication for a particular ailment.

The childminder was aware of her responsibility to safeguard children. She had a good understanding of child protection issues and the appropriate action to take should she have any concerns.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The childminder should ensure she carries out a formal review of children's plans with parents. Children's information and routines should be updated and the documents signed and dated by parents.

National care standards for early education and childcare up to the age of 16, standard 4.4: Engaging with children.

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder continued to provide a homely environment for children which was welcoming and friendly. There were established systems in place to ensure the environment was clean, risk assessed and well maintained. For example, toys and resources were regularly cleaned and checked to ensure they were in a good state of repair. This meant that children could play safely in and outdoors. We talked to the childminder about having a template outlining how she maintains a safe environment and just recording when action is taken to address any issue.

Children played in the lounge where there was enough space to play and develop their games. The layout enabled children to play on their own or together. All areas used by the children were well organised. Toys and games were readily available so that children could choose what they wanted to do. We saw that all resources were in a good state of repair.

The childminder was aware of good infection control procedures and talked about how she implemented them within her service.

Risk assessments were in place for the environment and outings which promoted children's safety and enabled them to undertake activities and outings within the community. We saw photographs of children on outings and enjoying their time at toddler group.

There was an appropriate system in place to record any accidents or incidents. This information was shared with parents who signed the document.

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 childminder had a range of policies and procedures in place to support the work of her service. We asked that she added in the contact details of the local social work office to the child protection policy.

The childminder told us that she did online training with other childminders, but did not have a record of this. We asked that a record of any professional development be kept and how it had been used to develop the service, as a childminding group they would plan training such as First aid. She could also use the Care Inspectorate 'Hub' as a means of accessing a range of best practice guidance. (See recommendation 1).

The childminder displayed appropriate information about her service for parents which include her certificate of registration and public liability insurance. She used Facebook and What's app well to share information about the service and what children were doing which encouraged parents' feedback.

We told the childminder about the Health and Social care standards that would be used by care services from April 2018 and advised she get a copy of the document.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The childminder should identify training that would help her professional development. If she uses information or research she should keep a record of how she has used it to develop her service.

National Care Standards, Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Standard 12.2: Confidence in staff.

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	
26 Mar 2014	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
3 Mar 2010	Announced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
3 Dec 2008	Announced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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