

Brisbane, Helena Child Minding

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)
Inspection completed on: 10 March 2018

Service provided by:
Helena Brisbane

Service provider number:
SP2003902393

Care service number:
CS2003004293

The service

Introduction

The childminder provides a childminding service from her home in Stevenston, North Ayrshire. She is registered to care for six children under the age of 16 years of whom no more than three will be under primary school age and no more than one will be under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. The areas of the accommodation children can access include a lounge, dining kitchen and downstairs toilet. The childminder currently provides a planned service to children who have additional needs during weekends and school holidays. She currently has one child registered to attend.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following a short announced inspection by one inspector on Saturday 10 March 2018 between 1400 hours and 1600 hours. 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. We looked at children's personal plans, relevant policies and procedures, observed how the childminder's cared for the children and observations of the accommodation used for childminding purposes.

Views of people using the service

The minded child was happy to share their views with us telling us they liked to go to the childminder's. We observed the quality interactions between the childminder and the minded child. It was clear the child was secure in the relationship. They were settled and happy in the care of the childminder. We spoke to the parent of the minded child who told us how invaluable the care that was offered to their family. They spoke very highly of the childminder and the support that was provided.

Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self-assessment from the service. The childminder identified what they thought the service did well and gave examples of how they planned to improve.

What the service did well

The minded child was cared for in a homely, caring and nurturing environment where she was included and respected. The childminder provided personalised care that was matched to the individual needs of the child. The childminder had a very good knowledge and skills base to meet children's individual needs; for example, using Makaton.

What the service could do better

The childminder plans to access first aid training. We suggested the childminder should now include her own evaluations of her service to support continuous improvement.

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 had established partnership working with the minded child and their family. Individual care was provided to ensure their needs were met. The childminder had very good knowledge of the minded child. Written personal plans had been developed with a system for review. We reminded the childminder to focus on how she will meet children's individual needs when recording plans.

A healthy lifestyle was promoted and the childminder used her knowledge of healthy eating and guidance to plan suitable food. Wherever possible, she supported the minded child's suggestions as she guided them to make healthy choices. She told us how, together with the minded child, she made a shopping list using pictorial prompts and then went to the supermarket. This helped the minded child to learn about healthy foods. The childminder encouraged regular physical exercise and play within the local community. Regular outdoor play included going to the beach and for walks or going to the soft play. The childminder had a very good understanding of children's developmental stages and she used this to offer a range of experiences suitable for the child's needs. The childminder planned these responsively dependant on the child's individual needs. Appropriate praise and encouragement was offered as the child made a special celebration card. Pictorial forms were used to support the minded child in choosing activities and favourite outings. Good use of the local community meant the minded child could be supported to learn about keeping safe in a meaningful way, for example, to understand not to talk/wave to strangers.

The childminder's interactions with the minded child were warm and affectionate. Positive behaviour was encouraged as she guided the child to make the right choices. She listened attentively to the child, offering praise and encouraging good manners. The childminder described how she worked alongside parents to ensure consistency in care. This approach supported the child to achieve, boosting their skills and confidence.

Currently, minded children do not receive any medication. However, should children require medication whilst in the service, the childminder was clear in her role in administration of medications and keeping records, including ensuring parents had given the first dose and written permissions were given. We asked the childminder to ensure she is recording any signs and symptoms when administering medication.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We found the childminder's home to be a safe, clean and nurturing environment for children, promoting their safety and wellbeing. Throughout our observations and discussion, the childminder demonstrated a sound knowledge of maintaining a safe and hygienic environment. The childminder had registered and gained a pass certificate as a food business with the local authority food standards agency department.

Accommodation for childminding had been organised to allow the minded child enough space to play on the floor, at a table in the kitchen or relax on the sofa. A back garden area was secured by a boundary fence. Appropriate resources were available for the minded child and the childminder made sure the minded child was supported to make choices and be part of decision making. The childminder is aware of her responsibilities to make sure the environment is safe. She takes daily checks before the minded child accesses the service. Written risk assessments for the premises and specific activities were in place. This allowed the child to play safely whilst being offered challenge.

We discussed infection control procedures and found that procedures were in place to help reduce the spread of infection. Best practice guidance was followed in relation to hand washing and should any child need changed. Good cleaning routines and hygiene practice were promoted, which helped to limit the spread and risk of infection. The childminder had two small pet dogs. There were clear procedures should the minded child come into contact with them. This included gaining parent permissions, hand washing and adult supervision at all times. The childminder should update her written policy to include this. A recording system was in place to record any accidents or incidents children may be involved in and was shared with parents to support children's health and wellbeing.

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 continued to keep up with good practice and legislation since her last inspection. As a member of the Scottish Childminding Association, she is kept up to date with regular updates and best practice. The childminder had taken steps to keep her professional knowledge and skills up to date. This included reviewing her policies and procedures after being inactive for a period of time. The childminder plans to continue with this, changing her format for recording risk assessments and regularly reviewing her child protection policy. The childminder has other employment working within a school environment. This has provided her with a range of relevant training that supported her to care for the minded child she currently had. This included Makaton levels 1 & 2, behaviour management and knowledge of the GIRFEC approach.

Discussions with the childminder demonstrated very good skills in providing personalised care for the minded child that was specific to their needs. She regularly asked parents and children to share feedback on their experience with her, either verbally or through questionnaires. Children could express their views through visual forms, daily discussions and chats. Children and parents were consulted on all aspects of the service and the childminder valued what they had to say, taking a respectful and inclusive approach. The childminder would benefit from carrying out her own evaluations, considering what worked and what could be improved on. This will support the childminder to reflect and take action for improvement if needed.

The childminder advised us that she no longer had an assistant as named on her registration certificate and agreed to apply for a variation to have this removed.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

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

Recommendation 1

The childminder should review and update current risk assessments to include contact children may have with pets in the service.

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

This recommendation was made on 17 December 2012.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder was confident in her procedures and planned to update her written pet policy to share with any new parents.

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	
13 Nov 2012	Announced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
12 Jul 2011	Announced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
18 Jan 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
9 Oct 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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