

Short, Alice Davina Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 19 March 2018

Service provided by:
Short, Alice Davina

Service provider number:
SP2003909309

Care service number:
CS2003019735

The service

Introduction

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Prior to 1 April 2011, this function was carried out by the Care Commission.

Information in relation to all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (also known as GIRFEC). This is 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 GIRFEC. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

The service is located in the village of Dunning in Perthshire. The childminder provides a service from her semi-detached property on the main street of the village.

The minded children have access to the kitchen, living room, playroom and a bathroom all on the ground floor of the house.

A small child sized table is used for meals, snacks, arts and crafts activities.

A garden area is at the back of the house and is used occasionally for outside play. The area has grass and a gravel area. It is partially enclosed and shares an entrance with the next door property. During the inspection there were two children being minded. The childminder told us she offers care both before and after school as well as part days to younger children who attend nursery.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16 of whom no more than three 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.

From the evidence we saw on the day of the inspection the childminder adheres to the conditions of her registration.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following a short notice inspection that took place 19 March 2018 between 12:00 and 14:00. The inspection was undertaken by one inspector. Feedback was given to the childminder on the same day.

During this inspection process we gathered evidence from various sources, including the following:

Discussion with the childminder and observations of two children who were present during the visit.

We considered the service's:

- aims and objectives
- certificate of registration
- a range of policies and procedures

- personal plans and individual records
- risk assessments
- certificates for courses that the childminder had undertaken.

We issued three care standards questionnaires (CSQ) to parents/carers prior to the inspection, but had not received any completed returns prior to our inspection.

We took the findings from the above into account for the purpose of reporting.

Views of people using the service

There were two minded children present during the inspection. Both children told us they liked the toys they played with and they could easily choose from a variety of books, games and toys stored away.

Self assessment

After assessing the information provided by the childminder, we found that there were still opportunities for the document to be more detailed and focus on the outcomes for children.

What the service did well

The minded children were happy and played independently with the toys available. The childminder had developed good relationships with parents who were comfortable using the service.

What the service could do better

The childminder had not kept up to date with changes in legislation which meant that she did not have sufficient records, called Personal Plans.

We asked that the childminder considers her training needs and accesses training which would improve her practice including child protection training.

The childminder should ensure she keeps up to date with innovative childminding practice and access the Care Inspectorate on-line resource, The Hub on a regular basis. She should review her records and policies to reflect best practice guidance.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	3 - Adequate
Quality of environment	3 - Adequate
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	3 - Adequate

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

During the inspection the children presented as being relaxed within the childminding setting. We observed interaction between the childminder and the children present and saw that the childminder knew them well and was responsive to their care needs. She interacted with them in a positive, nurturing way providing them with comfort and reassurance when needed. Children received praise and encouragement. This supported children to develop confidence and positive self-esteem.

The childminder told us about family circumstances that she had faced over the past year, these circumstances had required the childminder to concentrate on her family member as a priority. This had resulted in a number of previous recommendations not being addressed and have been carried over to this inspection visit.

We examined the records the childminder maintained for each child in her service. We asked that she ensures he follows the legislation which states that the Health, Safety and Wellbeing needs of each child are sufficiently identified and planned for. As previously stated this had been a recommendation at the last inspection but for reasons already noted had not been progressed. See recommendation 1.

Although we found minded children were busy with imaginative toys and floor play, there were still opportunities to extend their access to more arts and crafts and malleable resources. We noted that the childminder had not yet offered children messy play, loose parts play or open-ended play opportunities. She was unaware of new guidance to support high quality play provided by the Care Inspectorate, within The Hub.

- Our Creative Journey
- Loose parts toolkit
- My World Outdoors

See recommendation 2.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. To support the children to reach their potential, it is recommended that the service establishes personal files that record children's learning and development. These should include the contribution of parents.
2. We recommend the childminder explores new ways of offering arts and crafts and messy experiences for minded children.

Grade: 3 - adequate

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder had created a pleasant and welcoming environment. It was noted as being bright, attractive and homely. Children had access to a main playroom, kitchen, hallway and toilet.

The childminder provided toys for the children's use, which were suitable to the ages and stages of their development. We saw that the toys and equipment were clean and in a good state of repair during the inspection.

The childminder told us she carried out a visual check of the premises on a daily basis. She described to us how she visually made sure that the environments used were safe for children. We discussed this with the childminder and asked her to carry out formal risk assessments which highlighted the potential risks with in her home and on outings. See recommendation 1.

We observed the one child who was present during our visit explore the environment confidently. He was able to pick and choose from a selection of toys and resources that were available to him. When the child completed a task, for example finding a certain toy, the childminder praised him giving him a sense of achievement. The childminder confirmed no smoking was permitted on the premises. She also confirmed toys and equipment were cleaned daily.

The childminder had Public Liability Insurance in place for the service.

The childminder told us she used outdoor play to encourage children to be active and to develop their physical co-ordination. We found this promoted children's general health, well-being, confidence and risk taking. Children had access to fresh air and energetic play.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 3 - adequate

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We discussed child protection and found that the childminder had an understanding about her responsibilities in terms of protecting children in the service from harm. However she had not attended child protection training for a period of time. See recommendation 1.

The childminder was aware of Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) and the SHANARRI Wellbeing indicators and other best practice documents that had been developed over the past few years. This included Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings and Management of Medication in Daycare of Children and Childminding Services.

We have included links to relevant documents which could support the childminder to further develop how she evaluates her service and plans for improvement.

References:

Your Childminding Journey available at www.childmindingjourney.scot
My Childminding Experience available at www.hub.careinspectorate.com
How good is our early learning and childcare - (self-evaluation document)
Available at www.education.gov.scot
National Health and Social Care Standards - available at www.scot.gov.uk

The childminder had lots of informal contact with parents on a daily basis. She shared information and asked for their feedback and views on her service. She had no planned way of encouraging the participation of parents or children in the evaluation and improvement of her service. All of the parents who responded to our questionnaire agreed or strongly agreed that they were involved in any improvements or changes to the service. See recommendation 2.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. The childminder should ensure that she completes training in the protection of children to safe guard their health and well-being. The childminder must ensure that the service policy is regularly reviewed and shared with parents. The policy should contain details of the local agencies who would offer support and advice in the event of a concern arising.

2. To demonstrate that children were being respected and responsible the childminder should continue to develop the participation and involvement of the children and parents using the service.

Grade: 3 - adequate

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

Requirement 1

The childminder must ensure that personal plans are compiled for each of the minded children. This is to ensure that the health and wellbeing of all of the children is protected and that all necessary information is available to the childminder. The plan must be reviewed with parents very six months.

This order is to comply with: The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland(Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 SSI 2011/210 Regulation 5(1)(a) Personal Plans. Timescale for implementation: By end of February 2016.

This requirement was made on 4 February 2016.

Action taken on previous requirement

The childminder had some information recorded for each child. There was no evidence of any All About Me information being gathered from either children or parents. The information recorded had been reviewed with parents within the last six months.

Not met

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

To support children's health and wellbeing the childminder should develop a permission form on which parents record all the information required for the safe administration of medication within the service. To do this the childminder should refer to current best practice guidance on the safe administration of medication in childminding and child care settings.

National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 3: Health and wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 4 February 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

We saw that the childminder had a format on which she recorded any request to administer medication.

Recommendation 2

To support the health of the children using the service the childminder should review her infection prevention and control procedures. Handwashing should be a focus of this review. We advise the service to refer to good practice guidance to do this.

National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 2: A safe environment.

This recommendation was made on 4 February 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder was more vigilant in her approach to handwashing. She followed best practice guidance when changing nappies.

Recommendation 3

To demonstrate that children were being respected and responsible the childminder should continue to develop the participation and involvement of the children and parents using the service.

National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 6: Support and Development, Standard 1: Being welcomed and valued.

This recommendation was made on 4 February 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had taken no action towards this recommendation.

Recommendation 4

To support the children to reach their potential, it is recommended that the service establishes personal files that record children's learning and development. These should include the contribution of parents.

National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 6: Support and development

This recommendation was made on 5 December 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

No progress due to family bereavements, this recommendation has therefore been carried over.

Recommendation 5

To demonstrate that children were being respected and responsible the childminder should continue to develop the participation and involvement of the children and parents using the service.

National Care Standards, early education and childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 6: Support and Development, Standard 1: Being welcomed and valued.

This recommendation was made on 5 December 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

No progress due to family bereavements, this recommendation has therefore been carried over.

Recommendation 6

We would recommend that the childminder reviews the records, plans and policies of her service to ensure that they are kept updated in accordance with national guidance and best practice.

National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 14: Well managed service.

This recommendation was made on 5 December 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

No progress due to family bereavements, this recommendation has therefore been carried over.

Recommendation 7

The childminder should ensure that she completes training in the protection of children to safe guard their health and well-being. The childminder must ensure that the service policy is regularly reviewed and shared with parents. The policy should contain details of the local agencies who would offer support and advice in the event of a concern arising.

National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 3: Health and wellbeing, Standard 14: Well-managed service

This recommendation was made on 5 December 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

No progress due to family bereavements, this recommendation has therefore been carried over.

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
1 Dec 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment
		3 - Adequate 4 - Good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate
19 Jan 2016	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	3 - Adequate
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate
7 Sep 2015	Re-grade	Care and support	Not assessed
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	2 - Weak
4 Feb 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
13 Apr 2010	Announced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
4 Nov 2009	Announced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
8 Apr 2008	Announced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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