care inspectorate

Warwick, Ruth
Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 23 April 2018

Service provided by:
Warwick, Ruth

Service provider number:
SP2007965048

Care service number:
CS2007150725

HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

The service

Introduction

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

The service is located in Dreghorn, North Ayrshire. The childminder provides a service from her home, which is a terraced property with a back garden. Children can access living room, dining room/kitchen and upstairs toilet. The service is within walking distance to the local school and nursery.

Ruth Warwick is registered as a childminder to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of six will be under 12, of whom no more than four are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family. From 16 August 2017 until 29 June 2018 a care service to a maximum of 7 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than 6 are under 12 years with no more than 4 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months.

The childminder currently has nine children registered to attend at various times over the week, including before and after school. During the inspection visit there were three minded children present.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following a short announced inspection by one inspector on Monday 23 April 2018 between 12:00 hours and 14.00 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 cared for the children and observations of the accommodation used for childminding purposes.

Views of people using the service

Three minded children under school age were present. They played together, joined by the childminder to offer support or extend their play. Children presented as happy and settled in the care of the childminder. They told us of activities they had participated in whilst at the childminder, telling us they had fun. We received one completed care standards questionnaire from a parent/carer who indicated they were happy overall with the quality of the care.

Additional comments included:

"Childminder is very professional and I believe firm and fair with children. She is very helpful and accommodating and has built an excellent relationship with my children and family. She shows a great interest in my children as individuals and works hard to get it right for every child."

Self assessment

We did not receive a self-assessment from the childminder. We discussed with the childminder the importance of completing an up to date self-assessment in order to plan for improvement. The childminder agreed to complete and update her self-assessment following the inspection.

What the service did well

Children were cared for in a nurturing and homely environment. They played together, confident and contained in their relationship with the childminder. The childminder took account of children's diverse developmental stages and planned her activities around children's individual needs.

What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to update her skills and knowledge by continuing to attend and reflecting on training, national guidance and then considering how this can impact on making improvements to her service. We signposted her to best practice guidance that would support self-evaluation including:

'How good is our early learning and childcare' - education.gov.scot/improvement
'My childminding journey' - hub.careinspectorate.com
'My childminding experience' - hub.careinspectorate.com.

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

Written personal plans for each child had been developed using a wellbeing indicator format and had been regularly reviewed with parents. Older children recorded their own personal plans. We discussed with the childminder that records should show clearly how she plans to meet children's needs whilst in the service. Together, with all about me information and regular communication with parents, the childminder had effectively used this information to plan children's care routines.

Children were supported to be responsible as they practiced road safety when walking to school/nursery. The childminder was confident in her role to safeguard children and told us children were never unsupervised whilst in her care. Children who were unwell did not attend the service, helping to limit any spread of infection. The childminder explained how she would work in partnership with parents should she need to resolve any behaviour concerns and told us she would take a positive approach helping children to manage their own behaviour, offering support as needed.

We observed positive interactions between the childminder and the minded children that were playful, caring and nurturing. Children played together positively, clear in the house rules and helping to tidy up. The childminder used calm and consistent language, taking time to allow children to process information at their own pace. Children benefitted from accessing a range of play activities that were developmentally appropriate and linked to their interests. She had a good understanding of children's developmental stages. We saw how children's ideas had been used to plan a range of activities including making individual mother's day cushions and a having a 'Bake off' with all children included in the voting process. The childminder joined in with play, making suggestions to extend play in a fun and encouraging manner.

No children currently received medication. However, the childminder was confident in her procedures and record keeping should children need medication administered.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminding environment was welcoming and clean. Space had been organised for children to play on the floor or relax on the sofa, creating a homely environment. A table and chairs in the dining area was used for meals, snacks or for art and crafts, supporting children to be independent and developing social skills. Appropriate resources had been organised and made accessible for children to choose. The childminder made suggestions for games and toys children enjoyed and offered these to extend their play.

Outdoor play was secured by a boundary fence and had space to play or sit. Children told us about the mud kitchen they had created and how they had recently extended it, making a den/house. The childminder should consider how loose parts play, offering more open-ended resources, can be used outdoors. More natural materials could be used for younger children to explore and discover, developing curiosity. The childminder would gain from accessing Building the Ambition - practitioners guidance to help her review and add to her environment. Further information on loose parts play can be found on the Care inspectorate HUB.

The childminder is aware of her responsibilities to make sure the environment is safe. She takes daily checks before children access the service. The childminder has written risk assessments for her premises and specific activities to identify any hazards and action she needs to take to keep children safe. She should continue to review and update, as needed, her risk assessments, taking account of children's changing and developmental stages.

Children do not access the internet and the childminder told us she discourages older children from using a tablet or phone whilst in the service. The childminder should consider how she can assist children in developing

skills for safe internet use. Good infection prevention and control practice was carried out by the childminder and we reminded her of the need to always wear an apron alongside gloves when changing children, keeping her practice consistent.

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 was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and told us that she found their regular communications helpful and informative. We suggested the childminder could access "The Hub" section on the Care Inspectorate website. We explained that she could find a range of best practice documents and publications which would allow her to further keep her knowledge up to date. This would support her in developing and improving her service and help to identify any future training needs. The childminder also had links with other local childminders and the local authority who offered training and support. Training the childminder had attended included infection prevention and control, child protection, working with parents and elementary food hygiene. Training had been used to make improvements, for example, in infection control practice and had helped the childminder improve her record keeping. We reminded the childminder when notifications should be made to the Care Inspectorate.

Daily discussion with children and parents took place and this feedback directly influenced the care and support the childminder provided to the children in her care and any improvements to the service. The childminder took into account children's suggestions when she planned for school holidays by asking each child to have three activities or outings they would like to do. Questionnaires from the childminder to parents and children offered opportunity to assess the service and make suggestions for improvement.

The childminder should now reflect on the overall service considering what is working well and what could be better within her childminding service. We signposted her to national guidance 'How good is our early learning and childcare?' (2016) - a self evaluation framework for practitioners who work with children under five years and My Childminding Experience. Familiarising herself with this guidance will support understanding of self evaluating that will help the childminder to consider ongoing improvement.

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 develop a system to record written reviews of children's personal plans that set out their health, welfare and safety needs, involving children and parents/carers. National Care Standard for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 6 - Support and development

This recommendation was made on 19 May 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation
Personal plans had been developed and kept in individual folders for each child attending.

Recommendation 2

The childminder should review and update her risk assessments to include premises indoors and outdoors, local outings and specific activities. National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 2 - A safe environment.

This recommendation was made on 19 May 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation
Written risk assessments had been out in place for the premises inlcuidng the outdoor play space and specific activities.

Recommendation 3

The childminder should provide individual hand or disposable paper towels for each child to dry their hands to help prevent the spread of infection and update infection control procedures to contain this information. National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 3 - Health and wellbeing and Standard 14 - A well managed service.

This recommendation was made on 19 May 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation
Disposable towels and a pedal bin had been put in place for handwashing.

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	
17 Apr 2014	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed 4 - Good
2 Sep 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
9 Jul 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	3 - Adequate
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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