

McClymont, Anne

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 10 May 2018

Service provided by:
Anne McClymont

Service provider number:
SP2003903072

Care service number:
CS2003005263

The service

Introduction

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

Mrs McClymont has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since 2011 to provide a childminding service.

At the time of this inspection, the service complied with the following conditions:

1. 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 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.
2. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.
3. Overnight service will not be provided.

The childminder provided her service from her home a semi-detached bungalow, which is situated in a residential area of Girvan in South Ayrshire. The home is close the nursery, playgroup, school and other local amenities. Minded children have access to the sitting room and kitchen on the ground floor.

At the time of this inspection, the childminder was providing a service for 7 children within the conditions of her registration.

The aim of the service is:

"To provide care for children aged 0 - 16 in a safe and stimulating environment."

What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report after an unannounced inspection that took place on Thursday 10 May 2018 between 12:30 and 14:30. A Care Inspectorate Early Years Inspector carried out the inspection.

During this inspection, we spoke with the childminder and three young children who were present. We observed the care given by the childminder and looked at a number of documents including records for the children and health and safety records. We also inspected those areas of the property used for childminding.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), 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 Getting it Right for Every Child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, and included.

Views of people using the service

We spoke with the three young children who were present during the inspection. They appeared comfortable in the care of the childminder. One settled readily for a sleep as part of his usual routine. The other two children played together in a boisterous fashion. It was evident from discussion that the children liked going on outings with space to run around. They clearly liked visiting local parks and the beach and exploring their natural world.

We issued three questionnaires for parents to complete and one parent returned a completed questionnaire. This indicated satisfaction with the service. Comments included:

'The children will go for walks while with Anne and also have play time and craft time. Anne has a large range of educational toys, games and puzzles.'

Self assessment

We did not receive a self-assessment from the childminder. Issues relating to how parents and children are involved in decisions within the service and the quality of the service's health and safety records are considered below.

What the service did well

We found that the childminder had maintained good grades for the quality of Care and the quality of the Environment.

What the service could do better

We found that the childminder had made limited progress with the three requirements and four recommendations made at the previous inspection. As a result, we have graded the quality of Management and Leadership as adequate.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	3 - Adequate

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We found that the quality of care was good in those areas we sampled under this quality theme.

We found that the childminder understood and met the needs of the children in keeping with parental wishes and the children's care routines. The parent who completed our questionnaire wrote:

'Anne takes time to find out my children's interests and hobbies. Anne will ask if there are any changes to routines and personal details.'

Although the childminder had recorded mandatory information about each of the children in her care, she had not fully met the requirement to complete and review personal plans for each of the children. (See requirement 1 for this quality theme.)

The childminder advised that on a few occasions in the past she had administered medication to minded children and had forms available to record such instances. We emphasised the need to have written

- parental consent to administer any medication,
- clear details about the medication and
- dated records for any medication administered.

The document 'Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services' (Care Inspectorate 2014) available on the Care Inspectorate website www.careinspectorate.com will provide useful guidance in relation to this matter.

We found good evidence that the childminder promoted healthy lifestyles. We found there was a strong focus on outdoor play making very good use of the local natural environment. Walking was integral to daily activities, as the childminder did not drive.

Parents provided food and the childminder heated foodstuff if requested. The childminder had provided a range of snacks and the parent who completed our questionnaire confirmed that:

'The children have a healthy diet at Anne's. Anne makes sure they have lots of fruit, vegetables and low sugar snacks.'

The childminder was aware of her responsibilities in relation to the protection of children. She had also put in place precautions to protect children in day-to-day situations such as, establishing the good practice of holding hands during outings. She had also used outings to raise the children's awareness of road safety and stranger danger.

We saw that the childminder was vigilant and intervened to stop boisterous behaviour becoming out of hand. The children responded to instructions and reminders to play safely and be considerate of others.

Some play materials were available in the sitting room for the children during the inspection. As at the previous inspection, the selection was somewhat limited given the very good selection available in the conservatory and did not provide challenge and stimulation for the older child.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 1

1. In order to ensure that children's care is well planned and in keeping with their needs each must have a personal plan by 30 May 2018 and the childminder must:

- agree and discuss the content of these with parents
- review as required at least once in any six month period in consultation with parents.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards that state 'My personal plan is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices.' (HSCS 1.15), and in order to comply with the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011, Regulation 210:5(1): Personal plans.

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We found that the quality of the environment was good in those areas we sampled under this quality theme.

We saw that safety and hygiene within the home and garden was satisfactory and maintained through day-to-day vigilance and general cleaning to minimise any risk to children. We recommended that the childminder undertake written risk assessments for a range of activities and use of the rear garden at the previous inspection. The childminder advised that the children did not have access to the rear garden as she felt using local parks and other amenities offered better experiences for the children. She also advised that she risk assessed activities on an on-going basis depending on the individual children and their age and stage of development. She demonstrated a good understanding of day-to-day hazards and safety precautions required to minimise risk to children and stated she did not see the point of having written risk assessments.

General safety precautions to protect children were in place, for example, the childminder had tested her smoke alarms regularly to ensure working order and early warning of danger. We have asked the childminder to follow the guidance 'Fire Precautions in Domestic Childminding Premises' (Care Commission 2008) and test her alarms weekly and keep a record of these.

Suitable measures were in place to minimise the spread of infection. For example, the childminder had encouraged the children to wash their hands at key times and, she had available individual towels for hand drying. We asked her to ensure that these towels were out in readiness for children who could access the toilet independently. The childminder also observed the exclusion periods for infectious illness as recommended at the previous inspection. The childminder told us that her procedures for nappy changing included the use of a washable mat, disposable aprons and disposable gloves.

The service was registered with environmental health for the provision of food.

Suitable insurance was in place for childminding. There had been no accidents but paperwork to keep records should any occur was available.

Overall, the children mainly had access to the sitting room where there was space to play and comfortable seating for rest and relaxation.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We found that the service was not operating at a level we would expect and we have graded this theme as weak for those areas we sampled under this quality theme.

The childminder advised that she had not taken up training as required in the previous inspection and it was not her intention to do so. We found that online training was not an alternative, as the childminder did not have routine access to a computer. The childminder had some examples of current best practice guidance documents relevant to childminding including the 'Health and Social Care Standards' (Scottish Government 2017). She was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association and felt that literature from that organisation and the Care Inspectorate helped her to keep up to date with current developments in childminding. We suggested that in addition she would find it beneficial to download publications recently published by the Care Inspectorate www.careinspectorate.com such as 'Our Creative Journey', 'My World Outdoors' and 'My Childminding Experience'.

The childminder advised that she does not store information electronically about the children and would not therefore require registering with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) about the new law that comes into force from 25 May 2018 in relation to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and how childminders may collect, manage, store and share data.

As recommended at the previous inspection the childminder had downloaded her current certificate of registration and had this available for parents.

The childminder had not updated her self-assessment since 2016. It was apparent that the childminder used day-to-day exchanges with children and parents to discuss childcare issues, choices and preferences. The parent who completed our questionnaire told us that she had never had any cause to complain about the service but if she had she would, 'speak to Anne directly as she is very easy to talk to and very approachable.'

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

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 prepare a written care plan for every child in consultation with its family. Thereafter, the childminder must review these at least once in every six-month period.

This is in order to comply with:

SSI 2011/210 Regulation 5 - to prepare a written plan within 28 days of the date on which the service user first received the service.

Timescale - within 4 weeks of receipt of this report. The childminder must prepare a written care plan for every child in consultation with its family. Thereafter, the childminder must review these at least once in every six-month period.

This is in order to comply with:

SSI 2011/210 Regulation 5 - to prepare a written plan within 28 days of the date on which the service user first received the service.

This requirement was made on 23 April 2014.

Action taken on previous requirement

Please refer to the section of this report headed Quality of Care and Support and requirement 1 in this report.

Not met

Requirement 2

The childminder must undertake training relevant to her role as childminder. She should prioritise topics identified in this inspection report.

This is in order to comply with:

SSI 2011/210 Regulation 15 -persons employed in the care service must have training for the work they are to perform.

Timescale - within 6 months of receipt of this report.

This requirement was made on 23 April 2014.

Action taken on previous requirement

Please refer to the section of this report headed Quality of Management and Leadership.

Not met

Requirement 3

The childminder must ensure that her current certificate of registration is available in her premises.

This is in order to comply with:

Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, section 60 - the person providing the service must ensure that a copy of the certificate is in the premises from which that service is provided.

Timescale - within 1 week of receipt of this report.

This requirement was made on 23 April 2014.

Action taken on previous requirement

Please refer to the section of this report headed Quality of Management and Leadership.

Met - within timescales

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

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

The childminder should apply exclusion periods for any child with infectious illness in accordance with the exclusion periods detailed at www.hps.scot.nhs.uk and follow the guidance document 'Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings' also available at www.hps.scot.nhs.uk

National Care Standards for Early education and childcare up to the age of 16 years.
Standard 3: Health and wellbeing & Standard 6: Support and development.

This recommendation was made on 23 April 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Please refer to the section of this report headed Quality of Care and Support. Recommendation met.

Recommendation 2

The childminder should ensure that children have access to a suitable range of age appropriate play materials and experiences at any given time.

National Care Standards for Early education and childcare up to the age of 16 years.
Standard 5: Quality of experience & Standard 11: Access to resources.

This recommendation was made on 23 April 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Please refer to the section of this report headed Quality of Care and Support. Recommendation not met.

Recommendation 3

The childminder should undertake a range of written risk assessments for more boisterous children, activities that are more ambitious, trips, outings, and access to the rear garden in order to have in place safety precautions to minimise risk while allowing young children to learn to take responsibility for their own behaviour and safety.

National Care Standards for Early education and childcare up to the age of 16 years.
Standard 2: A safe environment & Standard 3: Health and wellbeing & Standard 6: Support and development.

This recommendation was made on 23 April 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Please refer to the section of this report headed Quality of Environment. Recommendation not met.

Recommendation 4

The childminder should take into account the quality of outcomes for children in her evaluation of her service. Children should experience a high level of positive stimulation and be encouraged to be curious and explore the world around them both in and out-of-doors with age appropriate materials.

National Care Standards for Early education and childcare up to the age of 16 years.
Standard 13: Improving the service.

This recommendation was made on 23 April 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Please refer to the sections of this report headed Quality of care and Support and Quality of Management and Leadership.

Recommendation not met.

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
23 Apr 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 4 - Good
29 Apr 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
18 Jun 2008	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good

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