

McEwan, Fiona **Child Minding**

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 17 April 2018

Service provided by:
McEwan, Fiona

Service provider number:
SP2006961297

Care service number:
CS2006134493

The service

Introduction

Fiona McEwan, referred to as the childminder in this report, is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a care service to a maximum of eight children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than six are under the age of 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months.

From 1 November 2017 until 30 June 2019, on a Wednesday, an additional pre-school child may be cared for. This is to accommodate specific children; should any child currently attending leave the service, numbers will revert to those above. Overnight care will not be provided. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.

The service is provided from the childminders home in a residential area of Haddington, East Lothian. The home is semi-detached over two floors with a private back garden.

Aims and objectives for the service have been developed and are shared with parents through the information given to them at the start of placement.

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 GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What we did during our inspection

The inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate. The unannounced inspection took place on 17 April 2018.

As part of the inspection process we asked the childminder to issue care standard questionnaires to parents using the service.

During the inspection we gathered evidence from various sources including talking to the childminder, talking to children, looking at key information kept to ensure that children's needs were met.

We walked round the home with the childminder and assessed the suitability of the environment and equipment used for childminding.

Views of people using the service

There were three children present during our visit. Children were chatty and secure in their environment.

One parent completed the care standard questionnaire. They indicated that they were very happy with the service provided by the childminder. Comments included:

'It is an excellent and very professional setting where I am more than happy to leave my child knowing that they will be safe, happy and well cared for.'

Self assessment

The childminder had completed the self assessment identifying how her service provided children with positive outcomes. Areas of strengths were identified and in some themes the childminder had identified some areas where she wished to develop her practice through information from good practice documents.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a nurturing and homely environment for children. Children were happy and relaxed in the care of the childminder.

What the service could do better

In order to fully reflect the service each child receives we have suggested that the childminder should ensure that contracts and registration information is kept up to date and regularly reviewed. To ensure that current good practice is reflected thus providing children with a good quality service the childminder should review and update policies and procedures.

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	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder had established close relationships with the families she worked with. The children attending on the day of inspection were affectionate towards her and requested cuddles and attention. The childminder was very gentle and calm when talking and chatting to the children. We saw that the childminder provided a warm, caring and nurturing environment.

The childminder knew the children in her care well and was able to talk about them and their likes dislikes etc. However, although basic information was available about each child the childminder had not continued her work to develop personal plans for them. We have indicated to her that a personal plan should be developed for each child in consultation with parents. Each personal plan should be reviewed at least every six months or when there is a significant event or change to the child's routine or family life. This would ensure the childminder was meeting every child's needs and creating an environment where they felt nurtured, respected and safe.

The childminder provided meals and snacks for children. Children were aware of good hygiene practices and washed their hands before lunch. They sat together at a small table for lunch and ate and chatted to each other making it a sociable time. Children ate well and had plenty water to drink throughout the meal. The childminder told us about the types of home made foods she cooked for children. These were simple home

made foods which followed good nutritional practice and guidance ensuring that children's health was supported.

The childminder had a good understanding of childcare development and provided a range of activities and outings suitable for the age and ability of each child. She was able to discuss how she adapted activities to provide interest for older children but include the younger children in the activity. To promote positive behaviour the childminder used simple house rules, which were gently but consistently applied. Children told us about some of the rules and why they had them. This helped children begin, where age appropriate, to learn about the balance of getting what they want and respecting the needs of others.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The family home provided a bright, clean and well maintained environment for children to use. The kitchen diner was the main area used for children's play, some use was made of the living room especially for younger children. To promote outdoor physical activity the childminder used the garden to the rear of the home. This area was safe and suitable for children to play in and could be supervised easily. Children told us they sometimes went on walks and to the park to play.

The childminder confirmed that the home was a no smoking premises. She also confirmed toys and equipment were cleaned regularly helping to ensure the premises and resources were clean and hygienic for children's use.

The childminder had developed a range of policies and procedures which were shared with parents. These procedures told parents how the childminder kept their children safe. We asked the childminder to review some of these to ensure that they contained current good practice information and the correct contact details for child protection concerns and the Care Inspectorate.

The childminder had procedures in place to minimise risks in the home. She described the visual risk assessments which were carried out when on outings and walks. To help keep them safe children were encouraged to learn about road safety and being appropriately aware of strangers when out in the community.

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

The childminder manages her service professionally and to a good level. Daily discussions with parents and the use of a daily diary for younger children ensured that communication with parents was on going. Parents said that the childminder was open to ideas and suggestions and regularly checked that they were happy with the service.

Some training had been undertaken since our last inspection but the childminder needed to update her child protection training to ensure that she was aware of current practice. We signposted the Care Inspectorate Hub and encouraged her to research best practice guidance to extend her knowledge and understanding of childcare topics and reflect on practice. The childminder took good account of information provided through the Care Inspectorate publications and talking to other childminders in the area.

We discussed how the childminder could develop her records on children and those which evidenced activities to include reference to the wellbeing indicators. This would help to evaluate the service being delivered to the children.

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 an effective and simple method of tracking a child's development using good practice models. National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 4 - Engaging with children.

This recommendation was made on 14 August 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Some work had been carried out to meet this recommendation but had not been sustained. We have deemed this recommendation to be met but have asked the childminder to continue to develop an effective system to record the development of children who attend the service for significant periods of time.

Recommendation 2

The complaints procedure used in the service should be reviewed to include the name and address of the Care Inspectorate and to make it clear to parents that they can be contacted at any time. National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 14 - Well managed service.

This recommendation was made on 14 August 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The complaints procedure still referred to the previous regulatory body. We have commented in this report that all policies and procedures needed to be updated to take account of current good practice.

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
14 Aug 2014	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 5 - Very good
23 Sep 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
22 Jul 2009	Announced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership Not assessed
20 May 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 3 - Adequate Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good

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