

MacLeod, Ashleigh Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 6 June 2018

Service provided by:
MacLeod, Ashleigh

Service provider number:
SP2012983373

Care service number:
CS2012307153

The service

Introduction

Ashleigh MacLeod operates her childminding service from her family home, a terraced house in the Abronhill area of Cumbernauld. The service is well-situated to local amenities and schools.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under 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 the childminder's family.

The children have the use of the accommodation on the ground floor and the toilet facilities on the upper floor. There is also a large enclosed garden which is easily accessible from the dining area.

Aims of the service include providing a wide range of activities and experiences for the children.

What we did during our inspection

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people – and what they can do to improve. GIRFEC is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

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 indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

We compiled this report following a short-notice announced inspection, which took place between 1pm and 2.45pm on 6 June 2018. The inspection was carried out by a care inspectorate early years inspector.

Two minded children were present during the inspection along with the childminders own child. Throughout the afternoon, we spoke with the childminder and observed the children at play. We reviewed a number of documents which included, children's personal plans, photo books and the childminder's training documents.

Views of people using the service

The children present enjoyed playing with the toys available to them and were secure and confident in the environment. They talked positively about the experiences available to them. Some of their comments are noted below:

- "You get nice snacks here"
- "I like it here"
- "I want to come back again tomorrow so I can see the butterflies"

- "Come and see all the toys we have here"

We did not receive any questionnaires from parents, however one parent did email their feedback about the service. They indicated that they were very happy with the quality of care provided and commented positively on the relationships between the childminder and the children.

Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self-assessment from the childminder.

The childminder identified what she thought the service did well and in particular highlighted the very good quality of experiences offered to children This was consistent with our findings.

What the service did well

Children were developing their creativity, imagination, investigation and problem solving through freely chosen extended play experiences. The toys and equipment available to children were of very good quality and met their needs and choices.

What the service could do better

The childminder could record how she keeps children safe and secure within formal risk assessments.

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	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We observed the childminder to be kind, caring and nurturing with the children throughout our visit. She knew the children well and planned experiences to promote their individual needs Mrs MacLeod interacted sensitively as the children invited her to play and she extended their learning by offering praise and encouragement. The childminder was tuned in to the children's thinking and needs and we could see they felt well supported.

Individual personal plans recorded clearly how children's needs would be met and their progress was reviewed regularly. Shanarri photo books for each child evidenced achievements and also provided children with nice memories of the experiences they had participated in.

Children directed their play and activities in the way that they chose. They accessed a wide range of experiences and toys suitable for their age and stage, which stimulated their natural curiosity, learning and creativity. The

patio doors between the living room and garden were left open and children could move freely between the play spaces. Outside children were very busy playing with sand, dinosaurs, a toy kitchen and games. Inside the children were interested in live butterflies that had just emerged from their chrysalis. The children decided that the caterpillar's needed fed and they worked with the childminder to create sugary water and fruit. The children spent a lot of time mixing, squeezing and cutting until they had enough food for the butterflies. They had lot's of fun and entered in to interesting discussions that supported their understanding of the life cycle of a butterfly.

Children were confident and settled in the home from home environment that the childminder provided. Mrs MacLeod's own child included the minded children fully and we observed strong positive relationships between them. The childminder's son even invited the minded children to choose toys from his room to play with.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The home was clean, tidy and well organised to provide care to the children. The large open plan living and dining room was well stocked with a wide range of good quality toys. We observed children to be busy and freely accessing toys which were within easy reach at their level. This allowed children to make choices about what they wanted to play with.

The childminder discussed with us her plans to incorporate more loose parts materials in to play, providing children with the opportunity to develop their curiosity, imagination and problem solving skills. Loose parts are materials that are non prescriptive. For example, a stick can become a fishing rod, a stirrer, or a tool to move something.

The living room was a cosy comforting space providing a calm environment to relax. Most of the minded children attended nursery or school for part of the day so benefited from some time to chill out when they felt like it.

The children accessed outdoors regularly for fresh air, exercise and natural play experiences. The garden was imaginatively resourced and children were exploring and learning outside. At the time of our visit the weather was very warm. The childminder had dressed the children appropriately in loose clothing and sun hats and had applied sun-cream. We discussed enhancing children's safety in the sun by creating some shaded areas in the garden.

Although we found the environment to be safe and secure, we discussed with the childminder about formally writing risk assessments for riskier types of experiences, for example visiting the park or playing in the garden.

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

Children's needs were met by the childminder who was trained, competent and skilled. Mrs McLeod had proactively sought training to develop her skills and was reflective on how it had impacted on meeting children's care needs. Recent training included; child protection, managing choking, healthy eating for toddlers, first aid and promoting positive behaviour.

Positive relationships had been fostered with the families who used the service. The childminder actively sought their views and used the information that she gained to shape the service. Regular questionnaires were issued to children and their parents and action was taken following their views. One child indicated in their questionnaire that they did not like playing football. The childminder ensured that they had an alternative experience when visiting the football pitch.

Parents commented very positively on the level of communication between themselves and the childminder. They said their professional relationship was honest and open. The parent who gave comments about the service indicated that they would feel comfortable to raise any concerns with Mrs MacLeod directly. This highlights the positive ethos within the service.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very 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

There are no outstanding recommendations.

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
6 Jun 2014	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		5 - Very good 4 - Good Not assessed 5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
19 Jun 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	3 - Adequate
		Environment	3 - Adequate
		Staffing	3 - Adequate
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

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