

Clark, Deborah Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 11 June 2018

Service provided by:
Clark, Deborah

Service provider number:
SP2008971349

Care service number:
CS2008183662

The service

Introduction

The service is provided from the childminder's home within the residential area of Murray in East Kilbride. The childminders home is close to the local school, nursery, shops, parks and other amenities.

The children have access to the downstairs floor of the house and to the back garden which is accessed through patio doors from the play room. Children can also access the bathroom upstairs.

This service registered with the Care Commission in 2009 and transferred it's registration to the Care Inspectorate in April 2011. It 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 32 months. These numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

When working with an assistant the service is registered 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 five 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.

On the day of the inspection four minded children were present.

Aims of the service include providing a happy, fun, educational and safe environment where the childminder responds to children's individual needs and interests.

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 an unannounced inspection, which took place between 10am and 12.15pm on 11 June 2018. The inspection was carried out by a care inspectorate early years inspector.

Throughout the morning, we spoke with the childminder and her assistant and observed the children at play. We reviewed a number of documents which included; children's personal plans, registers and the childminder's training documents and risk assessments.

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.

Three parents returned questionnaires to us. The responses from these demonstrated that they were very happy with the quality of care that their child received. Some of their comments are noted below;

- "The childminder is a very approachable individual and if I had anything to discuss about my child she always delivers"
- "Fiona (assistant) is one of the nicest people I have ever met, she is kind and very caring"
- "My child loves all the fun things that Deborah and Fiona do. I love seeing daily updates on my mobile with pictures of everything they have been doing each day".

Self assessment

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

The childminder identified what they thought the service did well and particularly highlighted strengths within personal planning and seeking views of children and families. This was consistent with our findings.

What the service did well

Children were happy, settled and having fun in the childminder's home. Relationships between the childminder, her assistant and the children in their care were positive and secure attachments had been formed.

What the service could do better

The childminder and her assistant could develop their knowledge of good practice by reading some new publications and discussing how they could impact on children's experiences in a positive way.

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	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Children were busy, happy, confident and having fun. They were interested in the toys on offer to them and participated in lots of creative imaginative play. The children particularly enjoyed superhero play with Batman

and Spiderman figures. The childminder's assistant was particularly skilled at supporting play and enhanced experiences for children by sensitively interacting to develop imagination further. For example she created lots of laughter playing with a fake light up finger. The children found this hilarious.

Children were supported to achieve through personal plans which set out how the service planned to meet their needs. The targets within plans were relevant to the children's stage of development and incorporated their interests and significant changes in their lives, such as starting school.

Children were cared for sensitively by the childminder and her assistant. They anticipated issues in advance of them occurring, for example children who had difficulty sharing. Mrs Clark and her assistant compromised with children, respecting their feelings and worked with them to find solutions. This made children feel valued and respected.

Children were protected from harm because the childminder and her assistant were alert to any signs of deterioration in children's health and wellbeing. They had recently completed child protection training and had a good understanding of how to keep children safe. Mrs Clark was keen to seek more in depth training surrounding child protection and valued the importance of this.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder's home was safe, clean and well maintained. Children had space to play and to relax and could access a secure garden directly from the playroom.

A selection of toys were available for children to choose from in the playroom. The childminder told us these were rotated regularly to meet children's interests. Children were busy playing and were stimulated by what was on offer to them. Children made good use of the space to play and particularly enjoyed hiding underneath the large table in the playroom.

Daily visual checks of the home and garden ensured children's safety. We discussed with the childminder about developing more formal risk assessments for places she visited out with the home. The childminder agreed to do this, giving consideration to all potential hazards.

Children had opportunities to explore, learn and make friends by being part of their local community. For example, creative play and curiosity was enhanced through regular visits to the woods. Children had participated in experiences in the woods such as den building and making fires. Visits to the woods help children take positive risks, learn about safety and become more resilient.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

Mrs Clark and her assistant worked well together and had an open friendly relationship. They shared the same values and worked together to meet the aims of the service. They were committed to ensuring that children had fun and were happy and stimulated.

The childminding assistant had attended appropriate training to meet her development needs. This included annual child protection and first aid training. This training contributed to her ability to keep children safe.

The childminder and her assistant entered in to regular discussions about how to meet children's needs. Mrs Clark shared information gained from online forums with her assistant, highlighting good practice examples to inspire their practice.

As members of the Scottish Childminding Association and the local childminding group, there were opportunities for the childminder and her assistant to enter in to professional discussions with others in the same sector. These types of development conversations brought fresh ideas to their practice.

We discussed with the childminder some documents that were available to support the development of children's experiences. These included 'My World Outdoors', 'Our Creative Journey' and 'Your Childminding Journey'. We suggested that the Mrs Clark and her assistant read these documents and reflect together how they will use the information gained to keep the service moving forward.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

Children's needs were well met by the childminder as she was trained, competent, skilled and reflective of her practice. She kept up to date with best practice and legislation. She was signed up to the 'Scottish Childminding Association' and was an active member of a local registered childminding group. As such, Mrs Clark entered in to regular discussions with colleagues about developments in the sector. She also subscribed to a childcare website that gave her access to a wide range of online training courses.

Children and their parents were involved in evaluating and assessing the service. This ensured that it was shaped to meet children's needs. We viewed parents and children's questionnaires and found that changes to the service were not required. The questionnaires were still worthwhile as they highlighted to the childminder the types of things she should continue providing that were important to her families. For example photographs sent to parents of children's experiences.

Parents commented very positively on the level of communication between themselves and the childminder. They said their professional relationship was honest and open. All of the parents who completed questionnaires indicated that they would feel comfortable to raise any concerns with Mrs Clark 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
16 Jan 2017	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 6 - Excellent
14 Feb 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
2 Feb 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment Not assessed Staffing 3 - Adequate Management and leadership Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
19 Oct 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
20 Oct 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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