

Earle, Karen Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 4 July 2018

Service provided by:
Earle, Karen

Service provider number:
SP2004939115

Care service number:
CS2006136530

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 Earle 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 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of 6 will be under 12, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 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. The parts of the premises not to be used are the first floor
4. Overnight care will not be provided.

The childminder provided her service from her home an end terraced two storey house, which is situated in a residential area of Girvan in South Ayrshire. The home is close to schools, nursery, shops and other local amenities. Minded children mainly have access to the sitting room. They also have limited supervised access to the kitchen.

At the time of this inspection, the childminder was providing a service for 5 children within the conditions of her registration.

It is the childminder's aim to 'provide a warm, safe, nurturing and stimulating environment for children aged 0-16 years'.

What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report after an unannounced inspection that took place on Wednesday 4 June 2018 between 9:00am and 10:45am. A Care Inspectorate Early Years Inspector carried out the inspection.

During this inspection, we spoke with the childminder. One young child was present and slept throughout the inspection visit. 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

One young child slept contentedly on a couch in the sitting room throughout our visit. The childminder sat with him. The child looked very comfortable with cushions and a cover. The toys that were available were age appropriate. The childminder clearly understood his needs and outlined the care she provided in keeping with his parent's wishes and his age and stage of development.

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

'My child loves going to the childminder's. My child tells me that she plays, draws or colours and plays outside on warm days and has snack and lunch.'

Questionnaires that the childminder had issued to families who used her service indicated that parents and their children were happy with the quality of the service provided.

Self assessment

The childminder identified what she thought the service did well. She told us the children could make choices in day-to-day activities and outings. She also described using questionnaires and day-to-day exchanges to gain feedback from parents about the quality of the service she provided.

What the service did well

We found that the childminder had established good relationships with the children and their families.

We saw that the childminder had made progress in meeting two recommendations made at the previous inspection:

- She had completed written risk assessments for outings and play in the garden
- She had improved fire safety in relation to final exit doors.

In addition:

- She had undertaken first aid training
- Her records were well organised and readily to hand.

What the service could do better

The childminder readily accepted our suggestions for improvement in relation to:

- Written risk assessments
- Medicine management
- Best practice guidance and training
- Contact with the Information Commissioner's Office.

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

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

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:

'We chat on drop off and she asks and updates me on things that are needed or my opinions.'

The childminder had recorded mandatory information and additional information in personal plans specific to individual children and linked the GIRFEC wellbeing indicators. She also completed daily diaries for the youngest children to inform parents of their children's care routines and included comments about their emotional wellbeing.

We found good evidence that the childminder promoted healthy lifestyles. Generally, this was with walks and outings within the local community such as parks for boisterous play. There was also provision for outdoor play in the garden. The children brought their own packed lunches and snacks and the childminder provided sugar free drinks.

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. For example, by promoting safe routines in relation to road safety and helping the children understand stranger danger.

The childminder advised that there were no issues in relation to behaviour. She had celebrated children's successes with certificates and gold stars to reward achievements, for example, for potty training and dressing themselves for outdoors.

The childminder described her procedures for the administration of medication. This included written consent and the recording of medicine she had administered. A parent had also provided a bottle pain relief for the childminder to administer 'if required'. We have advised the childminder that 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. (See recommendation 1 for this quality theme)

We saw that the childminder was calm and attentive towards the child in her care. She knew their needs well and clearly, communication with the parent had confirmed the need to this period of sleep.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The childminder should download the document 'Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services' available in the Care Inspectorate website www.careinspectorate.com. She should follow guidance for 'Consent to treatment'(page6) and specifically the section for 'when required' medication (page 7) This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards that state 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice,' (HSCS 4.11)

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

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

We saw that those areas of the home used for childminding were clean and safe. The childminder had written risk assessments for general home safety and play activities in the garden. She told us she maintained her environment by day to day cleaning and visual risk assessment.

At the previous inspection, we recommended that the childminder undertake written risk assessments for outings and use of the trampoline. We have asked her to add the precautionary measure that only one child uses the trampoline at any time. In addition, we asked her to complete a written risk assessment for the planned visit to the farm park.

General safety precautions to protect children were in place, for example, the childminder had tested her smoke alarms weekly to ensure working order and early warning of danger. There had also been monthly evacuations to familiarise the older children with fire safety procedures. The childminder had also improved fire safety in relation to final exit doors as recommended at the previous inspection. An approved contractor had checked her gas boiler.

The childminder followed best practice to minimise the spread of infection. The service had registered with environmental health for the provision of food. Her information leaflet and contracts made clear that she followed exclusion periods for infectious illness. She provided individual hand drying for the children. She outlined best practice when changing nappies.

Suitable insurance was in place for childminding and the use of her car and she told us that she used suitable car seats for minded children. 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. The rear garden was enclosed and no hazards were evident.

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

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

The childminder had undertaken first aid training since her last inspection. She hoped to undertake an update in child protection training and explained that access to training has proved difficult and expensive in her area. We advised that training in other topics relevant to childminding would be beneficial. The childminder told us she used the Care Inspectorate online resource 'The Hub' and had some examples of current best practice guidance documents relevant to childminding including the 'Health and Social Care Standards' (Scottish Government 2017). We suggested that in addition she would find it beneficial to download best practice guidance such as 'Building the Ambition' (Scottish Government 2014) and publications recently published by the Care Inspectorate www.careinspectorate.com such as, 'Our Creative Journey', 'My World Outdoors' and 'My Childminding Experience'. (See recommendation 1 for this quality statement.)

The childminder had submitted her annual return and self-assessment to the Care Inspectorate and these provided some insight into how the childminder used quality assurance processes to evaluate her service in consultation with children and their families. Her information leaflet had been issued to all families who used her service and this included details of her complaints procedure. The parent who completed our questionnaire told us, 'I would speak to the childminder and if this didn't help then I would contact the Care Inspectorate.'

We discussed the possibility of her requiring to register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) in relation to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and how childminders may collect, manage, store and share data. We provided a leaflet about this and sent her an e mail with information from the ICO that made clear that childminders in certain circumstances do require to register. We have advised that she contact the ICO direct to determine her situation.

It was apparent that the childminder used day-to-day exchanges with children and parents to discuss childcare issues, choices and preferences.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The childminder should source training relevant to the role of childminder and download best practice publications highlighted in this section of the report. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards that state 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice,' (HSCS 4.11)

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 prepare written risk assessments for outings where there is potential for harm such as being near water. She should also locate or renew her written risk assessment for play on the outdoor trampoline. National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 years. Standard 2: A safe environment.

This recommendation was made on 1 July 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Please refer to the section of this report headed Quality of Environment.

Recommendation 2

The childminder should follow fire safety guidance for childminding in domestic premises in relation to final exit doors. National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 years. Standard 2: A safe environment.

This recommendation was made on 1 July 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Please refer to the section of this report headed Quality of Environment.

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
1 Jul 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 4 - Good
22 Jan 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 3 - Adequate Staffing 3 - Adequate Management and leadership Not assessed
16 Sep 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 3 - Adequate Staffing 2 - Weak Management and leadership Not assessed
6 Oct 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 4 - Good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
3 Sep 2009	Announced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership Not assessed
15 Jan 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership Not assessed

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