

Blyth, Karen Child Minding

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

Service provided by:
Blyth, Mrs Karen

Service provider number:
SP2003906134

Care service number:
CS2003012409

The service

Introduction

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

The service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration on 1 April 2011.

Mrs Blyth (referred to as the childminder throughout this report) is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than six will be under the age of 12 years of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one will be under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The childminder provides this service from her home in a residential part of the Midlothian town of Penicuik. The parts of her home used by minded children are the living room, the dining room, the downstairs toilet and the rear garden.

The childminder has aims which include the following :

"To provide a safe environment. To provide stimulating play activities which are appropriate for the age and stage of your child.

To encourage creativity, self expression and imagination through related arts and crafts, role play, stories and activities.

To promote your child's healthy self image and self worth through praise, encouragement and guidance.

To be a positive role model and promote personal and social skills encouraging courteous behaviour and respect for the environment.

To maintain trust and confidentiality."

The Care Inspectorate are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure that they have the best start in life, are getting ready to succeed and live longer healthier lives. We check that services are meeting the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC). Set up by the 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, strategy and legislation that affects children, young people and their families. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC. They are safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, 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.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this inspection report following an unannounced inspection which took place on Friday 4 May 2018 between the hours of 9.30am and 11.15am. Two minded children were present during the inspection. We provided feedback to the childminder on the day of the inspection.

We took account of the information in the childminder's self assessment and annual return and gathered information from sources including the following:

conversation with the childminder

observation of the interaction between the childminder and the minded children

discussion of key documents

observation of relevant paperwork supporting the service
walk around all the parts of the family home used by minded children.

All of the above was taken into account in writing this report.

Views of people using the service

Three minded children were present during the inspection. The children were busy and occupied with their chosen activities. They played purposefully throughout the time we were there. From time to time they looked to the childminder for support, her interaction was purposeful and tailored to individual children's needs. Children showed us some of their favourite toys and invited us to join their games.

Before the inspection took place we sent three Care Standards questionnaires to the childminder for distribution to families using her service. Two of these were returned to us before the inspection took place. Both respondents told us they strongly agreed with the statement "Overall I am satisfied with the quality of care my child receives at this service." The following additional representative comments were included:

"Karen is very supportive of the kids wants and needs and takes great care in planning her days with them. She stimulates their learning in many ways but most of all in their creativity. Karen has a remarkable arts and crafts supply and I have many beautiful pieces from the children which show time and love. Karen never misses an occasion i.e. Mothers Day, Birthdays, and religious celebrations which helps educate them in the diversity of other cultures. Their many trips outdoors, to the walled garden, Almond Valley etc gives the opportunity for kids to explore the surrounding areas and have great memories.

"Karen's communication with me is very organised and I am updated regularly with pictures of the kids doing many things and what they have been up to, I could not ask for a better service for the kids and I."

Self assessment

The childminder submitted a thorough self assessment document before the inspection took place. We were satisfied with the information and high level of detail she provided about how she derived her high quality service.

What the service did well

The childminder was committed to her professional development through reading, research and attendance at a range of courses. She was able to identify the impact this had on the children in her care. Children were cared for in a fun and inclusive home environment.

What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to look for ways to develop her existing high quality service.

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

Throughout the inspection the childminder demonstrated a high level of understanding of each individual child in her care. She spoke confidently and in great detail about their particular needs and interests. It was apparent from her nurturing interaction with the children that she respected them and wanted to provide them quality experiences which supported their development.

Children's information folders were maintained to a very high standard. At the start of each placement the childminder worked with families using the experience she gained studying at SVQ Level 3 to set up a baseline assessment for each child. This helped to identify progress and any areas for development. Observations were clearly linked to the wellbeing indicators which helped ensure that outcomes were focused on each child as an individual. Parents were involved in reviewing their children's information at least once every six months. It was apparent from the comments made by parents that the childminder had informed them of the importance of the wellbeing indicators in supporting their children's overall health and wellbeing.

The childminder stressed the importance of clear and regular communication with families. She had developed a range of ways to ensure this happened. They included daily conversations, review meetings, questionnaires, WhatsApp, texts and phone calls. On occasion she had used video to record specific events for parents. A parent told us "Karen always checks things out with us she never makes changes without discussing with me first. She always asks for updates on any changes in the children's routines."

Children were consulted in a very natural way throughout the session. It was clear from their confident responses that they were used to being involved in making decisions in everything that affected them from snack food, to daily activities and outings to planning generally.

Children's general wellbeing needs were met because the childminder had attended a wide range of relevant courses including child protection, food hygiene and first aid. The impact of this on children's experience was apparent. They were encouraged to be involved in choosing, cooking and baking some of their own food. This along with regular sensible hygiene routines helped ensure they were developing an understanding of the importance of looking after their bodies.

The childminder understood the value for children of spending regular time outdoors. We saw photographs of children taking part in activities in the local community and further afield. Children were encouraged to take risks in their play, we saw that they were confident in trying new activities and enjoyed challenging their capabilities. Taking part in regular activities in the community helped children to become familiar with their surrounding and develop a sense of belonging to their community. This was also an opportunity to encourage road safety awareness and an age appropriate understanding of stranger awareness.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 – very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

On the day of the inspection we looked around all the parts of the childminder's home and garden used by minded children. We found her home was maintained to a high standard providing children with a comfortable and supportive homely environment. Children knew their way around the home and were aware of the boundaries in place to ensure they were safe. Children were able to move freely between the indoor and outdoor play spaces. This respected their ability to choose where and how they wanted to play and supported active outdoor play.

Toys and resources were plentiful and of good quality. They included heuristic play and natural materials in abundance. This helped to ensure that all children's interests would be met. Children were confident in making their own choices and in asking for the childminders help when needed. The childminder was very responsive to the children while at the same time allowing and encouraging them to do things for themselves when she thought this would be beneficial to their development. On the day of the inspection some of the children were engrossed in their play with junk modelling which they had chosen themselves, others made a den and spent time outdoors.

The childminder understood her responsibility to keep children safe and secure. Risk assessments and safety equipment relevant to children's stage of development were in place. Children's general wellbeing was well supported. For example, the childminder was familiar with the guidance of the administration of medication, information on allergies was recorded and regular hand washing routines had been established. Accidents records were well maintained giving families information about what happened and any first aid given. Parents were asked to sign these records as confirmation that they had been informed.

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

The childminder's commitment to the professional development of her service was apparent. She was qualified to SVQ Level 3 and since the last inspection of her service she had taken part in a wide range of training both on line and by attending courses. They included:

- Autism awareness (advanced)
- Child protection Level 3
- ADHD awareness
- Promoting positive behaviour
- Meningitis
- Introduction to GIRFEC
- Allergy awareness
- Food Hygiene
- First Aid
- Infection control
- Building the Ambition
- Development in babies
- Understanding children's rights.

In addition the childminder had studied documents including My World Outdoors, Building the Ambition, My Childminding Journey and My Childminding Experience. She was able to talk confidently about the impact that her combined training and reading had on her service and the opportunities and experiences she provided for the children in her care.

The childminder evaluated and reviewed her service on an on-going basis. The views of parents and children were an important part of this. The respect and value she placed on these views was apparent from the range of methods she offered families to influence the services outcomes and from the comments they made about the overall quality of the service. They are detailed in the section of the report entitled 'views of people using 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
5 Jun 2014	Unannounced	<div>Care and support</div> <div>Environment</div> <div>Staffing</div> <div>Management and leadership</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Not assessed</div> <div>5 - Very good</div>

Date	Type	Gradings	
7 Jun 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
24 Jun 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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