

Pearson, Fiona Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 2 August 2018

Service provided by:
Pearson, Fiona

Service provider number:
SP2003905403

Care service number:
CS2003009997

The service

Introduction

The childminder provides her childminding service from her detached property in a residential area of Perth. The minded children have access to the upper floor only, making full use of a large living room, playroom, kitchen, dining room, hallway and toilet. The children also have access to a large garden.

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

On the day of inspection the childminder was working with five children. We found that the childminder adheres to the conditions of her registration.

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), 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. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection between 13:30 and 15:10 on 2 August 2018. We gave feedback to the childminder at the end of the inspection.

We received three completed questionnaires about this service. In addition to the information provided by parents in these questionnaires we gathered information on the service from a range of other sources. These included:

- observation of the children during activities
- observation of the childminder and her interactions with the children in her care
- observation of the environment
- discussion with the childminder
- toys and resources
- the childminder's policies
- children's information
- registration certificate.

Views of people using the service

During the inspection we saw the childminder working with five children. We could see that the children were all very comfortable and relaxed. The children attending told us:

'We like playing with the puppy. He's about this size.'

'I love playing with (child). We make up dance routines and show them.'

The parents who responded to our questionnaires were very positive about the experiences for their children. They strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care received by their children when using the service. They told us:

'Always asked what is important to me and my children.'

'I send my child to a childminder as I want a 'home from home' environment. My children are always kept busy. They go out every day, play in the garden and do arts and crafts.'

'I am so delighted with my children's progress. They love going to Fiona's and they have such fun. I cannot speak highly enough of Fiona's skill as a childminder – she is the very best and I trust her implicitly with my children.'

Self assessment

The childminder had submitted a self assessment. However, the self assessment showed that the childminder had not fully reflected on the current quality of service provided, as much of the information had been submitted in previous years.

The childminder demonstrated, through our observations and discussions, her commitment to providing the best outcomes for the children in her care.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a very homely and welcoming environment for the children and families she worked with. She had developed strong relationships with the children and understood their individual needs well. She considered children's age and stage and offered a variety of activities appropriate to their interests. The children benefitted from a range of opportunities in the local community.

What the service could do better

The childminder should review and update medication permission and administration forms in line with current best practice guidance.

The childminder should consider further ways to record children's development and involvement in the 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	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered during the inspection we found that the service was performing to a very good standard in this area.

The childminder had developed strong relationships with the children in her care and was kind, caring and respectful towards them. She provided a 'home from home' environment which enabled the children to be relaxed. We could see that all the children were very comfortable and were enjoying their play.

We looked at the information held for each child. This was updated every six months or sooner if required. The childminder verbally shared information about the children's daily activities and the progress and development they were making with parents. We suggested the childminder could explore ways to record this. She communicated with parents on a daily basis and kept them well-informed. Photographs were shared regularly which enabled parents to feel included in their child's care.

Children's wishes and choices were respected and activities were planned around their interests. The childminder was responsive to children's interests and actively encouraged children to share these. We discussed with the childminder ways of recording children's involvement in planning and evaluating their experiences. We suggested she could begin to use floorbooks or mind maps.

We saw very good examples of the children being encouraged to be independent. The childminder recognised where children needed support and helped them where necessary. She gave the children encouragement and positive praise. We also heard the childminder being firm and clear with expectations. The children responded positively to this and this created an ethos of respect.

During the inspection, we saw the children playing together. They had developed kind and caring friendships with each other, which was supported by the childminder's positive approach.

The childminder told us that she provided snacks and meals for the children. All of the parents strongly agreed that the childminder provided a healthy and well-balanced diet. A parent commented: 'Fiona provides my children with home cooked meals and fruit for snacks. I cannot fault her in any way as there is always healthy varied food to eat'.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 – very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered during the inspection we found that the service was performing to a very good standard in this area. We concluded this after talking with the childminder and looking round the childminder's home.

From our observations we saw that the childminder's home was clean, tidy and welcoming. The children had plenty of space and comfort to play, eat, rest, relax and explore. A range of toys were available in the playroom for children to access. The toys were rotated on a regular basis following children's interests, which ensured that children were appropriately stimulated and challenged in their play. The children enjoyed their snacks, lunch and art and craft activities in the kitchen.

The children enjoyed playing in the garden on a regular basis. They enjoyed playing games such as hoopla and tig. The children were aware of the areas of the garden they were able to play in to keep themselves safe.

We discussed with the childminder the use of loose parts resources to encourage children to be creative, solve problems and promote curiosity. She had an awareness of the benefits of loose parts play. We signposted the childminder to documents that would support her to develop loose parts play.

The childminder informed us that she made regular outings within the local community. She told us that the children particularly enjoyed walking with the dog, feeding the ducks, and visiting Scone Palace. They also regularly attended a local playgroup. We saw that the childminder was aware of the need for children to have regular outdoor active play. This contributed to the health and wellbeing of the children.

The childminder had recently got a new puppy. She told us about the benefits of the puppy being around the children and how it enabled a child in her care to become more comfortable with animals. We signposted the childminder to the Care Inspectorate's Animal Magic publication for further information about the benefits of animals in care settings. The children were very aware of the importance of hand washing. We observed good hand washing practice during the inspection.

Accidents and incidents were recorded appropriately, including any treatment given to the child. They were shared with parents and carers. A copy was held for the childminder's own records.

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

From the evidence gathered during the inspection we found that the service was performing to a good standard in this area. We concluded this after talking with the childminder and looking at supporting paperwork and individual records.

The childminder had completed training in first aid. We suggested that the childminder should refresh her knowledge of child protection. Whilst we were satisfied with the childminder's knowledge and awareness of her role in protecting children, it had been a number of years since she had attended training. This would ensure she kept her knowledge up-to-date with current practice. She should continue to identify any further training needs and reflect on how this could improve her practice.

The childminder gathered the views of children and their parents on an informal basis. Parents were happy with the regular discussions which took place and one parent told us: 'I would speak directly to Fiona if I had any concerns'. We discussed with the childminder ways of gathering formal feedback however, the childminder felt confident parents would share their suggestions and concerns during their daily conversations.

The childminder was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA). She kept up-to-date with developments in childcare through the Care Inspectorate HUB and SCMA childminding magazine.

The childminder met with other childminders on a regular basis. She told us this provided opportunities for the children to socialise and develop friendships with a wider range of children. It was also a valuable opportunity to share knowledge and current practice with other childminders to help her to improve her service.

We looked at the medication procedures. We would ask that the medication procedure was reviewed and updated to ensure medication permission and administration records were in line with current best practice guidance. We directed the childminder to the Care Inspectorate HUB (www.hub.careinspectorate.com) to follow best practice guidance (**see recommendation 1**). The childminder shared policies with parents in an information booklet when they joined the service. She should ensure that the policies are reviewed regularly and updated to reflect current best practice.

We found the childminder to be committed to providing the very best for the children and the families she worked with. We saw evidence of happy, well nurtured children who were being treated with respect. The childminder should now act on the recommendation and improvements discussed during this inspection to further develop and improve her service.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The childminder should develop medication permission and administration forms to improve how medication is managed within the service.

This is to ensure the quality of the care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which state that 'Any treatment or intervention that I experience is safe and effective' (HSCS 1.24).

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

It is recommended that the childminder should review her paperwork on the administration of medication. Best practice guidance is available on hub.careinspectorate.com

National Care Standards, Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 3, Health and Wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 21 July 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

This recommendation has not been met. A further recommendation has been made within the report in line with the Health and Social Care Standards.

Recommendation 2

It is recommended that the childminder should regularly review her policies and practice in infection control to ensure that current best practice is being followed.

- i) updated guidance on nappy changing
- ii) hand washing - hand hygiene: information to support improvement

National Care Standards, Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 2, A Safe Environment.

This recommendation was made on 21 July 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder was aware of best practice in relation to nappy changing. We saw evidence of good hand washing practice throughout the inspection. This recommendation has been met.

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	
21 Jul 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
26 Aug 2010	Announced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
13 Feb 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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