

McFarlane, Mary **Child Minding**

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 22 August 2018

Service provided by:
Mcfarlane, Mary

Service provider number:
SP2003901316

Care service number:
CS2003002842

The service

Introduction

Mary McFarlane 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 childminder's own children, any foster children and any other children for whom the childminder has parental responsibility. Children are supervised at all times both indoors and out.

This service was previously registered with the Care Inspectorate and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate in April 2011.

The childminder operates her service from the family home, a terraced house in a residential area of Arbroath in Angus. Minded children have access to the ground floor living room, kitchen and bathroom, and a rear enclosed garden.

The service's aims include providing a safe and secure environment, stimulating activities, encouraging creativity, self-expression and imagination, and acting as a positive role model.

The childminder is winding down her service after many years as a childminder. There is one registered child attending the service who was present during the inspection.

What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection on Wednesday 22 August 2018 between 9.40am and 11.40am. A Care Inspectorate Inspector carried out the inspection.

During the inspection, we spoke to the childminder and the minded child present. We observed the care given by the childminder, her interactions with the minded child and looked at a number of documents including children's information, health and safety documents, policies and procedures.

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 parents 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 SHANNARRI wellbeing indicators.

Views of people using the service

We received a completed care standards questionnaire following the inspection. The parents were very happy with the care their child received at the service.

Additional comments included:

'She speaks to me every morning when I drop him off. We speak about his care and she puts it in place.'

'Mary has helped me with (X)'s problem with his bowels. She advised me to go to the doctor as his bowels were always runny, now we are waiting on referral to paediatrician. Trying out different diets with (X) to discover his problem. She has worked with me 100%. Also helping and working together with potty training. (X)'s speech was delayed, he has come a long way with help from Mary.'

There was one minded child, aged three years old present during the inspection. Also present was the childminder's two year old grandson. The minded child was happy and engaged with the wooden train set and an animal bingo game for most of the inspection. The children played happily together for some of the time then followed their own interests.

Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a completed self-assessment document from the provider. We were satisfied with the way the provider had completed this and with the relevant information included under each heading that we grade services.

What the service did well

The childminder provides an inviting, homely environment for the children and families attending the service. She knows the minded child very well and supports his development and learning in a calm, play based environment. The childminder works in partnership with parents to provide to ensure consistency in care to meet children's individual needs.

What the service could do better

The childminder should date all documentation on review and update to support the management of the service. She should continue to identify and access a range of professional development opportunities to enhance her knowledge and continue to develop her skills and practice.

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

The childminder was caring, warm and nurturing. She knew the minded child well and discussed how she supported him and met his individual needs. She talked about the importance of good communication and building trusting relationships with parents and children. We saw that she was working in partnership with parents to provide consistent care and support to the minded child. The childminder told us that she spoke daily with the parents and kept them included in their child's day at the service through sending photographs and messages through Messenger. We saw that she was linking the photographs and messages to the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators, ensuring the parents were fully informed of how their child's health and wellbeing was being supported at the service.

Information was gathered about the child and the childminder was aware that it should be reviewed at least every six months. All documents and paperwork should be signed and dated by parents on review or update.

The minded child was happy, relaxed and comfortable around the childminder and her grandson. The boys played happily together, supported by the childminder to share and take turns. Both children independently chose what they wanted to play with during the inspection visit. The childminder encouraged and praised the children throughout the inspection visit, encouraging their confidence, self esteem and perseverance in tasks.

We observed positive, nurturing interactions between the childminder and the children, encouraging and extending language, vocabulary and children's thinking as she joined in their play. The childminder was aware of her responsibility in safeguarding children and was confident in her procedures should she be concerned about a child. No medication was being administered at present however written parental consent would be gained before any medication was given and a record would be completed by the childminder.

Healthy lifestyles were encouraged by the childminder. Parents provided snacks and lunches for the minded child as the child was being monitored for intolerances. Active play and fresh air were on offer daily, as the children were always out and about in the local environment and further afield. The children told us they visited the library regularly, went for walks, played in the parks and went to a dance class.

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 clean, tidy and well organised. She made good use of the space available to her indoors and in the rear garden. The childminder conducted regular visual checks of the environment to ensure it was safe for children.

There was a range of age/stage appropriate toys, games, books and equipment available for the children. We saw the children have fun playing with the wooden railway and the garage before playing a game of animal bingo with the childminder. All toys and resources were easily accessible to the children, encouraging independence, confidence and their decision-making skills. The children enjoyed their snack of berries and breadsticks in comfort at the child sized table and chairs.

A secure back garden gave the children opportunities for fresh air and a run around daily. There was a selection of outdoor toys and resources for the children to have fun playing with. The childminder told us that during some of the summer days, the children had fun playing in the paddling pool and that the gazebo was up offering shade.

The childminder encouraged and supported children's handwashing to minimise the spread of infection in the service. She also cleaned toys regularly, ensuring they were also fit for purpose. The childminder had disposable gloves and aprons available for use when nappy changing and dealing with bodily fluids.

Parents were informed of any accidents or incidents that had occurred. They signed the record to confirm they had been informed by the childminder and received a copy of the record for their own information.

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 experienced childminder was winding down her service after many happy years as a childminder. She talked about the families she had cared for over the years and the enjoyment she had in her work. The childminder kept up to date with best practice and legislation through her membership with the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA), reading emails and publications from the Care Inspectorate, childminding forums on social media and discussing childcare topics with local childminders she met with regularly.

The childminder had researched online and undertaken a lot of reading on a variety of topics to keep her knowledge up to date. We suggested she make notes of her reading to support her professional development. We discussed the benefits of accessing a variety of training opportunities, including first aid, to continue to enhance knowledge, skills and practice.

Parents and children had opportunities to assess the service and give feedback to support development and improvement. The childminder spoke with parents daily and distributed written questionnaires regularly. Questionnaires we looked at indicated parents were very happy with the service. Children were consulted throughout their day at the service, encouraged to make independent choices and share their views on their care and the activities and experiences they would like to be involved in.

Policies and procedures were in place at the service and reviewed regularly or as needed. The childminder was aware of the Care Inspectorate Hub, where all current guidance and legislation, to support reviews, could be accessed.

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

Recommendation 1

The service should further develop the written risk assessments for all areas of the service. These risk assessments should be recorded and dated when carried out.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 2: A safe environment

This recommendation was made on 13 January 2015.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Written risk assessments were in place to support the childminder's visual risk assessing of her service.

Recommendation 2

The service should follow infection control best practice guidance and wear disposable aprons on every occasion when changing nappies and dealing with bodily fluids.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16, Standard 2: A safe environment

This recommendation was made on 13 January 2015.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had disposable aprons and gloves available to wear as protection when nappy changing and dealing with bodily fluids. This measure helps to minimise the spread of bacteria and infection within the service.

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
19 Nov 2014	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 4 - Good
25 Nov 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
23 Apr 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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