

McArdle, Wilma Child Minding

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)
Inspection completed on: 4 December 2018

Service provided by:
Mcardle, Mrs Wilma

Service provider number:
SP2003906157

Care service number:
CS2003012432

Introduction

This service has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since 1 April 2002.

Wilma McArdle provides a small childminding service registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children up to the age of 12 years, of whom no more than three children are not yet attending school, and of which no more than one child is under one year old. This includes the childminders own children.

Additional conditions of registration:

Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the Certificate.
Facilities to be provided; Childminding in the childminder's own home.

The childminder provides the service from her home in West Calder. The service operates on the ground floor of the family home including the lounge, kitchen and toilet. The garden and resources in the local community provided opportunities for children to access fresh air and exercise and to socialise with their peers.

We observed the certificate of registration and confirmed with the childminder that the detail was accurate. At the time of the inspection six children were attending the service on a range of part-time and before and after school placements. The childminders three grandchildren also attended the service as required. We met two children during our visit.

The statement of aims and objectives were stated as:

"To provide a fun, friendly and safe environment for children; To provide a flexible and reliable service at all times and to work in partnership with parents to provide a good service."

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). This is 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 GIRFEC. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators. Information on SHANARRI can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following a short notice announced inspection. This was carried out by one Care Inspectorate inspector on Wednesday 4 November 2018. We visited between 11:30 and 14:00.

We provided feedback to the childminder at the end of the inspection process. As part of the inspection, we took account of the annual return and self assessment that we asked the childminder to complete and submit to us.

During the inspection we gathered evidence from a number of sources, including the following:

We spoke with:

- the children present
- the childminder.

We observed and viewed:

- the environment and play resources
- the childminder's practice and interactions with the children
- the children playing.

We looked at the following evidence:

- the most recent self-assessment
- children's personal plans
- photographs of children's experiences
- registration certificate
- Public liability and car business insurance certificates.

We took account of all of the above information when we evaluated the service and wrote this report. Please note that parents and carers will be referred to as parents throughout the report.

Views of people using the service

The children present were relaxed and confident in the service. The children chose from a range of toys and resources and enjoyed a sociable lunch experience sitting at a table in the lounge. We saw photographs of children outdoors playing in the park and out for walks. The childminder responded to the needs of the children well so that they were respected and felt safe and secure.

One parent sent us a letter and three parents sent us an email telling us that they were highly satisfied with the care and support for their children. They said that the children enjoyed the variety of art and craft activities and the trips and outings planned in the local community. They felt that their children were safe in the care of the childminder and that the service was flexible to meet their needs.

Self assessment

Every year all care services must complete a 'self assessment' form telling us how their service is performing. We check to make sure this assessment is accurate.

What the service did well

Responsive care and support ensured that children's needs were met. The childminder used a warm, kind and compassionate approach so that children felt valued, loved and secure. A homely environment with comfortable areas supported children to relax and achieve developing a variety of skills through access to a range of fun activities. The use of the local community resulted in children being active and healthy through walks and visits to the local parks.

What the service could do better

Information was available in personal plans showing how the health, wellbeing and safety needs of children were met. For example, there was permission in place to enable older children to walk to and from school alone.

This practice was supporting children to be responsible and learning to stay safe. We discussed the use of risk benefit records to show the agreements that had been made in consultation with the parent and the child regarding safety. The childminder was in the early stages of developing open ended loose parts play for children including the use of natural materials to support children to be naturally curious, imaginative and creative.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Close partnership working with parents meant that the care and support for children was agreed meeting individual needs and supporting children to achieve. Effective communication supported the childminder to get to know children well. She delivered responsive care and support taking account of children's interests and preferences. Parents said that children loved the variety of art and craft activities and enjoyed being outdoors in the local community. Children felt safe and secure in the service and were supported to be confident individuals. Children each had a personal plan with information that told us how their health, wellbeing and safety needs were met. We discussed how to develop some of the records including the use of a risk benefit assessment to show the agreement in place for older children when walking to and from school.

Records and photographs of children's experiences over time celebrated their achievements, showed progress and the skills they were developing. Outdoor experiences and art and craft activities were some of the experiences that stimulated their natural curiosity, learning and creativity. Visits to the library were encouraging a love for books and developing speech and language skills. Attending groups supported to socialise with other children learning to be responsible through taking turns and sharing the toys. The childminder was developing open ended play including the use of natural materials indoors and loose parts outdoors. Children were becoming naturally curious, imaginative and creative as a result. We sign posted the childminder to guidance that will support this development including 'My World Outdoors' and 'Loose Parts Play'. Both publications can be found at www.hub.careinspectorate.com

Health and wellbeing was promoted in a variety of ways. Children learned about keeping their body healthy through being active outdoors and learned about healthy eating. The childminder encouraged parents to provide healthy lunches and ensured children had appropriate clothing so that they benefitted from quality outdoor experiences.

The childminder took steps to protect the children in her care meeting their health, wellbeing and safety needs. She demonstrated a knowledge and understanding of child protection. She administered medication safely and recorded accidents and incidents as required. The childminder provided a service where children felt secure trying new experiences resulting in increased confidence and self-esteem.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

A nurturing homely environment contributed positively to children having a sense of belonging building their confidence and self-esteem. The space was used effectively to meet children's needs and interests. Children played imaginatively with the toys, enjoyed reading books and sat at the table in the lounge to have lunch. The younger child had a nap in the buggy on the way to drop the older child at nursery. The childminder was aware of the safe sleeping guide published by the Scottish Cot Death Trust and had discussed sleeping arrangements with parents.

The childminder understood the benefits of providing a range of natural and sensory play experiences for children supporting their understanding, thinking, investigation and problem solving. She continued to develop the resources available and used her garden and the local community so that children were experiencing rich outdoor play opportunities. Children enjoyed digging and building assault courses with the loose parts. Risky play activities were supporting them to become resilient and responsible learning through the natural environment. Attending local groups supported children to socialise with their peers. Parents commented positively about the outdoor activities children enjoyed in their local community. The childminder created a welcoming environment where children were valued and respected.

The environment was clean, tidy with well maintained premises, furnishings and equipment. Safety measures were regularly checked to ensure that they were in place to minimise hazards and meet children's individual needs and stages of development. Children were becoming risk aware as a result of their experiences in the service. Infection control practices were good including effective hand washing. The spread of infection was minimised as a result. Safe food practices and storage of packed lunches was being adhered to. Overall, we found that good practice supported children to be safe, healthy and responsible in the service.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The childminder has developed her experience and knowledge of childcare practice over the years as a registered service. As a member of Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) she has regularly received relevant publications, has accessed training and through contact with other childminders has reflected on practice as a result of professional dialogue. Access to good practice guidance including safe sleeping guidance published by Scottish Cot Death Trust resulted in discussions with parents regarding safe sleeping arrangements. The childminder recognised the need to access First Aid training to refresh her knowledge and understanding of ensure that children are treated effectively should an accident occur. We sign posted the childminder to the Baby and Child first aid app at www.redcross.org.uk/first-aid-apps. This will provide information as required in the short term until first aid training is accessed.

The childminder was aware of practice that supported children to achieve. For example, she was aware of the benefits of children having risky play opportunities to support their confidence and develop various skills. She was developing the use of natural resources indoors and loose parts outdoors. Children enjoyed digging in the garden and used loose parts to make an assault course. We would support the childminder to continue improving practice and outcomes for children through reading publications found at www.hub.careinspectorate.com.

The childminder chatted regularly with parents and children listening to their views and suggestions to plan the service. We would encourage her to develop self-evaluation in the service using the following good practice guidance to support the process:

Your Childminding Journey available at www.childmindingjourney.scot
My Childminding Experience available at www.hub.careinspectorate.com
National Health and Social Care Standards - available at www.scot.gov.uk

The range of policies and procedures were reviewed and developed as required and recommended at the last inspection including the medication policy and procedure and the complaints policy. The childminder was aware of general data protection regulation (GDPR) relating to privacy and data protection reflecting on safeguards in place to protect the information gathered about children. Parents were aware of the complaint policy but felt that they would be able to discuss any issues with the childminder.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

Requirement 1

The childminder must develop a policy and procedure on the administration of medication which includes the following: written permission from parents, details of what is to be administered, the reason for the medication, instructions on how/ when and how much to administer, detail of when medication was last administered by the parent, records of when it was administered by the childminder, and how much was administered and a record of parents being informed about when the medication was given.

This is in order to comply with The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 - Scottish Statutory Instrument 2011/210 Regulation 4 (1)(a) - Welfare of users

This requirement was made on 10 December 2014.

Action taken on previous requirement

Policy updated and implemented in practice through the children's records

Met - within timescales

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

The childminder should obtain written permission from parents prior to taking photographs of their children. The permission form should include information to inform parents as to how the photographs will be used, and whether photographs of their children may be shared with other families.

Reference: National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - standard 14 - Well managed service.

Now in place

This recommendation was made on 10 December 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Written permission in place as recommended

Recommendation 2

The childminder should review and further develop the service's complaints procedure, as outlined under this statement.

Reference: National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - standard 14 - Well managed service .

Updated as recommended.

This recommendation was made on 10 December 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Policy reviewed and developed as recommended

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
10 Dec 2014	1	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 4 - Good
14 Dec 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Staffing Management and leadership	Not assessed Not assessed
15 Mar 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good Not assessed 4 - Good Not assessed
13 Mar 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed

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