

Blue, Deborah Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 5 February 2019

Service provided by:
Blue, Deborah

Service provider number:
SP2013985132

Care service number:
CS2013319009

Introduction

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

The service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 27 November 2013.

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). Set up by 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. Getting it Right for Every Child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child. They are: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; 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.

Mrs Blue is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children under the age of sixteen at any one time, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under twelve months. The numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own family.

The service is registered to provide care from Mrs Blue's home in Cambuslang, South Lanarkshire. Accommodation on the ground floor of the house including a kitchen diner, living room and downstairs toilet are available to minded children. The enclosed rear garden is also used for childminding purposes during good weather.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection visit on 21 January 2019 followed by an announced visit on 5 February 2019. This inspection was undertaken by one inspector with a Team Manager present as part of the Care Inspectorate's quality assurance procedures.

We sent care standards questionnaires to the service to distribute to relatives or carers of children who use the service. Two were returned to us during the inspection process and indicated that overall they were very happy with the service provided by Mrs Blue. Comments will be included within this report.

During this inspection we spoke with the childminder and minded children. We observed how she supported children during their time in the service. We looked at some documents including child information records, training records, policies and procedures.

Views of people using the service

Three minded children were present during the inspection. They were found to be happy, relaxed and confident with the childminder. Children were able to show us what resources they liked to play with, such as playdough, reading a favourite book and colouring in.

Self assessment

We received a completed self assessment document from the service provider. This contained information which identified strengths and areas for the future development of the service. This was completed to a satisfactory standard.

What the service did well

The childminder had created a nurturing and inclusive environment for minded children. She kept detailed information on children's interests and support needs. This helped her tailor her service to promote positive outcomes. Children's voices were valued and respected by the childminder.

What the service could do better

The childminder should continue with her plans to access further training to enhance her existing knowledge and skills and use the learning to develop and make improvements to her service.

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

At this inspection, we looked at how the childminder gathered information about minded children and how this was used to plan children's care, learning and development. This included the required information to be kept as well as good practice records.

The childminder provided various ways for parents/carers and children to have input into how the service was provided. Parents were able to comment in their child's daily diary which detailed their learning and wellbeing. She also gathered more formal feedback using questionnaires where parents could evaluate her service. By having daily discussions with parents and children meant that she was able to be flexible in her approach to caring for the minded children who were also able to influence how the service was provided to them. An 'Achievement Tree' was used by the childminder to celebrate the successes in children's lives at school, nursery,

home and also at the childminder's. This helped to create a nurturing and inclusive space where children were valued and respected.

The childminder had developed personal plans for children which informed how she cared for and supported them. We discussed how these could be reviewed to capture more meaningful information. The childminder was very knowledgeable about the children in her care and was able to demonstrate how she met their needs. She had worked with families to promote wellbeing with specific children. Positive relationships had been promoted by the childminder with children and resulted in friendships outwith the service.

Parents commented: "Deborah talks and consults us about any changes to her services. She always asks for our opinion before doing anything that may affect us" and "She always gets in touch with any plans and asks our opinions on this".

We concluded that children and parents were offered good care and support by the childminder.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

At this inspection we considered how the designated childminding areas were maintained to ensure children were safe and protected from harm and how well the childminding areas were used. All aspects considered were met. We gathered evidence through viewing the childminding areas and equipment, examining relevant records and observing how the children used the environment, local community and resources.

The childminder's home was bright, welcoming, clean and spacious. There was enough space available for children to be involved in different activities. She had a variety of resources which covered the age groups of those who attended and that children were able to access independently. Healthy snacks and food choices were available for children. During our time in the service, children seemed to enjoy having us as visitors and were keen to showcase their skills to us through making food using playdough and colouring in books.

The childminder advised that she did not use her outdoor space during wet or adverse weather as the decking was a potential slip hazard. Because of this she made good use of the local natural community spaces and groups to provide opportunities to children which were dependent on their interest and age. The childminder had completed a risk assessment for all areas of the home. Infection control procedures were in place with the childminder reviewing her nappy disposal procedures after discussions during this inspection. This was positive as it highlighted the childminder's commitment to continuous improvement.

Parents commented about the environment: "I am very happy with the activities completed. They are outdoors most days which (my child) loves" and "Deborah's house is great for the kids. Kitchen/diner is a fantastic space with toys to the side for them to play. Living room is the quiet area for them to relax. Garden is a great place to play and get fresh air".

We concluded that children were being cared for within a good environment that was well maintained, had appropriate safety measures in place and was well resourced.

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

At this inspection, we considered how the childminder evaluated the service, made improvements and kept informed of best practice and legislation. All aspects considered were met. We gathered evidence through viewing relevant records and discussions on training and development opportunities.

The childminder advised that she kept her knowledge up to date through the Care News and Scottish Childminding Association websites. The childminder also reflected on her learning from the training courses she attended such as Autism Awareness and First Aid. She was able to advise us of the impact this had on her practice. This was positive and highlighted the benefits of accessing meaningful training. She advised that she had not developed her service as much as she would have liked recently but that she was now in a position to progress and make improvements to her existing knowledge and skills.

She demonstrated a desire to access training that was specific and focussed. This would provide opportunities for increased self evaluation and promote positive outcomes for children. The childminder was registered with the local authority as a food business. Information about the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was shared with parents and she was registered with the Information Commissioner's Office. This was positive as she ensured that parents and carers were aware of best practice and legislation regarding data collection and retention.

We discussed the best practice guidance for childminders which is available on our website <http://hub.careinspectorate.com/> which would support the development of the service through accessing documents such as, Your Childminding Journey, My Childminding Experience, Gender Equal Play and Animal Magic.

Parents commented: "I am very happy with Deborah and feel she provides an excellent service. She always has a full day planned with fun activities to keep the children occupied" and "(My child), myself and my partner are all very happy with Deborah's service. She is a very kind, knowledgeable, caring, fun and thoughtful person".

We concluded that the childminder provided a good service which promoted children's health, safety and wellbeing and supported them to reach positive outcomes.

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

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	
18 Feb 2015	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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