Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)
Inspection completed on: 27 July 2016

Service provided by:
Lynch, Kirsty

Care service number:
CS2015337653

Service provider number:
SP2015986972
The service

Introduction

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.

Kirsty Lynch trading as Kirsty’s Childminding provides a small childminding service. Details of registered numbers of children can be found on the certificate of registration for the service. We confirmed with the childminder that the detail was on the certificate was accurate. At the time of the inspection five children were attending the service. All five children did not yet attend school. We met one minded child during our visit and the childminders own children.

The service is provided from the childminder’s home situated in Larbert. She uses the areas in the family home to provide a range of activities that children enjoy and to meet their individual needs. The kitchen/family room was set up with a range of fun toys and activities for the children. They enjoyed using paper mache and other craft activities at the kitchen table, reading stories and being active when out in the garden. Resources used in the local community included the park and local walks. They learned to respect others by socialising, taking turns and socialising with their peers. The childminder nurtured the children by responding to their needs during our visit.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following a short notice inspection. This was carried out by one inspector on Wednesday 27 July 2016 from 11.00am until 1.00pm. We chatted with the childminder about the service and examined some records, observed the children in the setting and their relationship with the childminder. We provided feedback to the childminder at the end of the visit.

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. We sent care standards questionnaires to the childminder to distribute to parents. Three parents had returned the questionnaires at the time of the inspection visit.

During the inspection we observed the areas used for childminding confirming that the environment was clean, safe and secure, we examined children’s care plans that showed us how children’s health, well-being and safety needs were met and sampled some of the systems that the childminder had in place showing how she managed the service and developed her knowledge and understanding of childcare issues.
Views of people using the service

The minded child present was happy and confident in the service. The childminder responded to their needs during the visit by providing activities they enjoyed and following routines as agreed with parents including lunch and sleep routines. The children were younger so were supported to make choices and try new experiences in an environment where they felt safe and secure.

Three care standard questionnaires were returned at the time of the inspection. Parents commented positively about the care and support delivered to children describing the childminder as ‘fantastic.’ We include further views and comments throughout this report where relevant.

Self assessment

The childminder submitted her self-assessment giving information about how she worked with families to meet children’s individual needs, how she provided a safe environment and how she managed her service. We would encourage the service to include how parents and children’s views have influenced care or improvement in the service.

What the service did well

The childminder worked in partnership with parents to ensure that children’s individual needs were met.

Effective communication resulted in parents being aware of their children’s experiences through sharing of photographs and comments on a daily basis.

Children were cared for in a nurturing environment.

What the service could do better

We discussed how the service could capture significant chats with parents in the recording systems.

The childminder identified her training needs including her aim to attend child protection training.

We discussed how the childminder could log learning as a result of research into best practice guidance and training.

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

We concluded that the service provided a level of very good care and support.

The childminder communicated effectively with families ensuring that she worked in partnership with them to meet the needs of children. Care routines and next steps in children’s development were agreed with parents and shown in the personal plan. Regular reviews ensured that children’s changing needs were met and that the detail in the plan was current. Next steps for support included learning about colour, number and being respectful to one another by sharing and taking turns. We discussed how the childminder could capture significant discussions with families and develop protocols and risk assessments linked to individual children’s health needs. Parents confirmed that they had regular chats, and received regular messages about their children’s experiences. Children were supported to make choices in the service including for example, choosing from a range of toys and activities.

Children were encouraged to make healthy lifestyle choices. For example, they were provided with healthy snacks including fresh fruit and had opportunities to taste healthy foods they had not tasted before. Parent’s said that children’s food allergies were managed effectively and that snacks provided were healthy. Children had opportunities to be active through trips to various parks and walks in the local community. As a result they benefitted from fresh air and exercise and had opportunities to explore the world we live in. Children enjoyed planting sunflowers watching them grow. Children were nurtured through the agreed routines including regular naps, story times and comfort and cuddles as required. The childminder described how she used distraction as a means of managing behaviour positively along with praise and encouragement to recognise achievements. The childminder provided a service where children were supported to feel secure and develop their confidence and self-esteem.

The childminder supported children with their health and wellbeing. She demonstrated a knowledge and understanding of child protection. She administered medication safely and recorded accidents and incidents as required.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

A nurturing environment met the needs of the children to a very good level.

The space available was maximised so that children were able to move freely and explore the range of toys and activities available. Children enjoyed playing with the toys in the family room and sat at the kitchen table for a healthy snack and to take part in a craft activity. The childminder used amenities in the local community that
benefitted the children in her care so that they enjoyed regular fresh air and exercise. The children were cared for in a warm and relaxed environment that contributed positively to building their confidence and self-esteem. Children were protected in a safe and secure environment. Parents described the family home as “... clean, tidy and free from any hazards. Toys are always kept clean as are all eating surfaces.” Children’s safety was maintained through the use of security arrangements including the front door being locked when children were present and the garden being fully enclosed. The childminder had identified the need for a lock to be installed on the garden gate through her risk assessment processes. Safety measures were in place to minimise hazards and meet children’s individual needs and stages of development. For example, cupboard locks prevented children from accessing hazards. Children were learning about becoming risk aware and staying safe through for example, learning to go up and down the stairs safely, discussing how they would stay safe at the park and discussing safety around dogs when out in the local community.

The childminder used very good infection control practices including effective hand washing and nappy changing procedures to prevent the spread of infection. Best practice guidance 'Infection Prevention and Control in childcare settings (day care and childminding settings)' supported the childminder in her practice. The childminder was registered with Food Standards Agency and stored children’s lunches safely. Overall, we found that very good practice supported children to be safe, healthy and responsible in the service.

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 service is managed professionally with steps taken to evaluate and improve the quality of the service to a good level.

Children’s experiences were improved through the childminder evaluating the quality of the service. Parent and children’s views were taken into account when planning activities and outings ensuring that they linked to children’s interests and that children had fun as a result. We discussed how the childminder could further develop her self-evaluation and capture improvement as a result within the recording systems. For example, we discussed how SHANARRI wellbeing indicators could be considered when evaluating the quality of the service and sign posted the childminder to ‘How good is our early learning and childcare’ found in the National Improvement Hub.
The childminder has a professional attitude to her continued professional development. She attended training and researched best practice guidance maintaining her knowledge and understanding of childcare topics enabling her to reflect on practice. Attendance at the introduction to childminding training had enabled her to reflect on the role of a childminder and the roles and responsibilities of looking after children and first aid prepared her to manage accidents effectively. The childminder had identified her training needs including the need to attend child protection training. We discussed how the childminder could record her continued professional development including her learning as a result of training and research into best practice guidance.

A range of policies and procedures were shared with parents to inform them about the service. The policies were reviewed and developed as required. The medication policy and recording formats available had taken account of best practice guidance ‘Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services’. 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

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

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.
To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren’t good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànain eile ma nìtheach iarritas.

अनुरोध पासेके एइ प्रकाशनांट सान्या फॉर्माट एंड अन्यांता भाषाः बांए बायाँ।

پیرائش آم رکا سکان کیپ نپرگ وکلوس اور رگن زیلون مین فریمکی زام پس۔

बेसी जेफ हूसमेत ते कुइं बसेभं छेवला ज्ञानमा लिए श्वेताथ डे।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.