Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 20 August 2019

Service provided by: Hardie, Lesley
Child Minding

Service provider number: SP2006962423

Care service number: CS2006139490
Introduction

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

Lesley Hardie, referred to as the childminder in this report, is registered with the Care Inspectorate 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 children of the childminders family.

On a Tuesday and Thursday between the hours of 8:30am and 1:00pm a care service may be provided 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 four are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminders family.

The service is provided from the childminders home in a residential area of Tranent, East Lothian. The detached home has a large garden to the rear of the building used by children.

Aims and objectives for the service are shared with parents through the welcome pack and include:
- ‘To Encourage active play whether this is in my home, garden or on trips to the local parks or beach.’
- ‘To be approachable and responsive to feedback from the child and their parents or guardians.’

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 GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What we did during our inspection

The inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate. The unannounced inspection took place on 20 August 2019.

As part of the inspection process we asked the childminder to issue care standard questionnaires to parents using the service.

During the inspection we gathered evidence from various sources including talking to the childminder, talking to children, looking at key information kept to ensure that children’s needs were met. We assessed the suitability of the environment and equipment used for childminding.

Views of people using the service

There were two children present during the inspection. Both were very relaxed in the care of the childminder and were very engaged with the range of play resources available to them. They chatted throughout the inspection and had a positive relationship with the childminder.

Two parents responded to the care standard questionnaire. Both indicated that they were very happy with the service provided.
Self assessment

The childminder had completed the self assessment fully identifying how her service provided children with positive outcomes. Areas of strengths were identified as well as some areas where she wished to develop her practice through information from good practice documents.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a warm and nurturing environment for children. The pace of the day was organised to meet children’s needs with very good opportunities for play and fun.

What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to use reflective practice in the completion of her self assessment. This will enable her to continue to provide the very good outcomes for children we saw during our visit.

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

To help the childminder meet individual care and support need she collected a very good range of information about the child and their family. She did this through the registration form and discussion with parents. She used information effectively to create a picture of each child and how they were progressing when in her care. Information was reviewed regularly to ensure it was relevant and to assess progress in meeting positive outcomes.

There were two children present during our visit. Both had a very positive relationship with the childminder who was warm and open towards them. They received praise, encouragement and cuddles all of which helped to promote a feeling of safety and security. This nurturing approach and understanding of child development had been used to encourage children to form friendships and begin to regulate their own behaviour. Suitable and child focussed boundaries had been developed to support children with relationships, respect and responsibility.

The routine for the day was flexible to take account of children’s interests and needs and included a very good balance of home play, going on outings or to local groups such as toddlers or community resources. The childminder had an understanding of child protection and shared her role in this area with parents. To help achieve positive outcomes for children the childminder had developed knowledge of the wider concept of safeguarding and the use of the wellbeing indicators associated with Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). She used her knowledge effectively through talking to children and valuing what they had to say, providing an
open, warm and safe environment to help promote children’s welfare and encouraging children to have fun with her and each other.

Parents provided packed lunches and snacks for their children. Meals were eaten at the dining table to encourage children to eat well and chat with the childminder and each other. Water was provided for children throughout the day to ensure that children were kept well hydrated. Ensuring that meal times were important events contributed to children developing healthy eating habits and developing positive attitudes towards food.

Requirements
Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations
Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection
The home was well organised, welcoming and very well maintained. It provided children with a safe and comfortable home from home environment.

Children used the playroom as the main area for their play. This room offered a bright space which was large enough for a good range of activities. Children had access to a varied range of age appropriate resources and they were very engaged in a range of play opportunities throughout our visit. The childminder had carried out baking activities and used the dining area for arts and craft activities. Children also used the garden to the rear of the home on a regular basis. This encouraged active physical play which was enhanced by walks and trips to local parks.

The childminder had developed a range of procedures to inform parents how she kept children safe and secure. Procedures for carrying out suitable risk assessments were in place. The childminder added to these by promoting children’s safety outwith the home when they were walking near roads, to school or playing in the local park. Procedures for administering medication were clear and a policy to ensure that good infection control procedures were followed was in place. These procedures contributed to children’s wellbeing and developed a sense of understanding on how to keep themselves safe.

Requirements
Number of requirements: 0
Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The childminder was aware of the need to keep up with changes in the childcare sector. She had kept up to date with current legislation and good practice advice through publications from the Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Childminding Association. Policies and procedures had been changed and shared with parents to reflect developments in practice.

The childminder was proactive about consulting with parents and keeping them up to date with developments in the service. A termly newsletter, text messages, daily conversations and e-mails were all regularly used to keep parents informed. There was good evidence in children’s files that they were consulted with on a regular basis to ensure they had fun in the service.

The childminder was aware of her responsibility to meet the legislative requirements for running a childminding service. Current public liability insurance was in place and the childminder was aware of the need to make appropriate notifications to the Care Inspectorate. This helped ensure the service ran in line with the conditions of registration.

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

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

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