

Simpson, Philomena

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 30 July 2019

Service provided by:
Simpson, Philomena

Service provider number:
SP2004938552

Care service number:
CS2003053231

Introduction

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

The service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

Mrs Simpson 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. These numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own family.

The childminder operates her childminding service from her family home in Chapelhall Airdrie, North Lanarkshire. The home is within easy reach of schools, nurseries, parks and shops. Childminding takes place on the ground floor of the home and children have access to a safely enclosed rear garden.

The childminder's aims include:

'To provide a safe secure, hygienic and stimulating environment for six children aged between 0-12 years old, a place where parents are happy to leave their children knowing that they are happy.'

What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection. This took place on Tuesday 30 July 2019 between 09:45 and 11:45, where one minded child was present. The inspection was carried out by one inspector.

During our visit we gathered evidence from a variety of sources including discussion with Mrs Simpson, children's personal plans and the service policies. We observed how Mrs Simpson interacted with the minded child. We considered the general environment and the equipment used in the provision of the childcare service.

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 Getting it right for very child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

Views of people using the service

The child present appeared settled in the childminder's care. They were at the developmental stage where they were learning to walk independently and happily holding onto the furniture.

We sent three care standard questionnaires to the service to distribute to parents/carers of children who used the service, none of which were returned before the inspection. Feedback provided by one parent within the child's personal plan, told us that the child was happy to attend the childminder's home. They enjoyed the varied activities, such as playing in the house and arts/crafts. This was in addition to playing in the garden and trips to the park.

Self assessment

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

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self-assessment from the childminder prior to the inspection. The childminder identified what she thought the service did well and gave examples of improvements and some areas for development which included the involvement of parents in the service. The childminder had one to one discussion with parents, where she listened to them and offered feedback. The childminder had been evaluating her service; she told us that she wanted the parents to be active participants involving them more in the choice of activities for their child, taking into consideration their age and developmental stage.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a homely environment for children. The child present received nurture, care and play activities to support them in their learning.

What the service could do better

The childminder should access and complete first aid and child protection training to refresh her knowledge and skills in this area. During the inspection visit the childminder was not able to locate insurance documents, we asked for them to be sent to us following the inspection, however to date we have not received.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	3 - Adequate

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

During our visit we sampled children's personal plans these were completed to a good standard and included an 'all about me' section. The childminder had gathered relevant information to support children's individual needs including their doctor's details, likes/dislikes, favourite toy, food and drinks. The childminder had a development plan in place for each child which outlined their progress and shared with their parents. We spoke about ways to further improve the personal plans during the visit to support current legislation, this included having a start date and subsequent review dates, consulting parents regularly and updating the plans at least once in every six months depending on the child's individual needs.

We found that the childminder knew the children well and described how she cared for and supported them as individuals. During our visit the childminder was providing temporary care for one child, prior to them starting at a new service. The childminder had been given important information from the child's parents to enable her to

care for the child and the child's parents had the opportunity to visit the service before starting. Had the child been attending the service for more than 28 days, we would have expected a personal plan to be implemented.

The childminder encouraged healthy choices at mealtimes where she would offer children finger foods including fish fingers and vegetable sticks, rice cakes, yoghurts and cows' milk. As the childminder was not registered as a food business, we advised that she contacted the environmental health service at North Lanarkshire council. This will ensure food safety for young children in her care. We signposted the childminder to Care Inspectorate Food Matters and Fun Foods First documents and NHS Scotland 'Setting the Table' guidance to further support healthy eating at an early stage. Information can be found here <https://hub.careinspectorate.com/how-we-support-improvement/care-inspectorate-programmes-and-publications/food-matters/>
<https://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/1507/fun-foods-first-an-easy-guide-to-introducing-solid-foods.pdf>
<http://hubcareinspectorate.com/media/177298/nhs-setting-the-table.pdf>

We looked at how the childminder would record information should a child require medication to be administered during childminding hours. We found that the childminder had procedures in place for recording the administration of medicine, however these needed to be updated in line with current best practice. Information can be found here <https://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/1549/management-of-medication-in-daycare-of-children-and-childminding.pdf>. This will help children receive treatment that was safe and effective.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder's home was welcoming and well maintained which provided a safe environment for children. The main areas used for play were the living room and rear garden. Children were able to access a selection of toys taking account of their interests, age and stage of development. Soft rugs were provided which gave young children comfort when crawling and helped them to develop their curiosity when exploring objects around them.

The service was a smoke free environment. There was a very good standard of cleanliness seen throughout the home, the childminder was aware of how to minimise the spread of infection which included, waste being kept in the appropriate bins outside and children being encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. We observed safety equipment being used which included stair gates. The childminder told us that she checked equipment and broken toys were discarded before play.

The childminder told us that children had opportunities to play in the rear garden, we saw that children had a trampoline and paddling pool to play in which the childminder had written permission from their parents. We spoke to the childminder about implementing risk assessments that involved children in the process for indoor

and outdoor play. This approach will give children the ability to make decisions on what they perceive to be risky and appropriate skills to challenge themselves, be safe, healthy and active.

The childminder told us that she consulted with children before deciding on outings, this included visits to soft play areas, Drumpellier Country and Strathclyde Park. Children's involvement ensured that they were respected and listened to and their views acted upon where appropriate. We discussed guidance documents such as, 'Loose Parts Play', 'Out to Play', 'My World Outdoors' and 'Our Creative Journey' and how these can be used to further develop play experiences for children and help engage them further in the home and garden. This approach will help to further improve children's creativity and enhance their problem solving and social skills. Information can be found on our HUB www.hub.careinspectorate.com

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 childminder was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) which provides resources for childminder's and paperwork that supports their practice. The childminder told us that she networked with other childminder colleagues, this was particularly useful as it gave them opportunities to share best practice, new initiatives and ideas. We suggested that the childminder used the Care Inspectorate website to keep abreast of recent childcare developments. Information can be found here <https://hub.careinspectorate.com>

During the inspection we sampled key policies, this included child protection, medicine, accidents/incidents, no smoking and emergency procedures. The policies outlined what was expected within the service. During the inspection we spoke about further improving policies and procedures by linking them to current legislation and guidance. Information can be found within the Care Inspectorate HUB.

During the inspection the childminder was not able to locate her car insurance details. We asked for these to be sent to us following the visit, however to date we have not received. Ensuring children experience care in an organised and well managed service the childminder must have relevant insurance documents in place and can access them during operating hours. (See Requirement 1).

We found no evidence during the visit that the childminder was continually updating her practice. The childminder was aware that she had not fully familiarised herself with best practice documents, such as, 'Loose Parts Play', 'My Creative Journey' and 'Out to Play' to ensure her knowledge and practice was up to date. We signposted the childminder to the Care Inspectorate HUB.

As it had been some years since the childminder had attended child protection and first aid training, we recommended that this should be sourced and completed. We signposted the childminder to one suitable child protection course at www.nspcc.org.uk this can be accessed annually and would enable her to refresh and update her knowledge and skills which will contribute to maintaining the safety and wellbeing of children in her care. (See recommendation 1).

Requirements

Number of requirements: 1

1. In order to safeguard children the childminder must ensure that she has relevant insurance documents in place and can access all necessary paperwork during operating hours. The childminder must ensure that this is submitted to the Care Inspectorate with immediate effect.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which state "I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice." (HSCS 4.11)

It also complies with 4(1)(a) - welfare of users of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011.

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The childminder should source and complete child protection and first aid training in order to refresh and update her knowledge in this area. This would contribute to the health and safety needs of children in her care.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which state "I am protected from harm, neglect, abuse, bullying and exploitation by people who have a clear understanding of their responsibilities." (HSCS 3.20)

Grade: 3 - adequate

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	
31 Jul 2015	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
29 Feb 2012	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
20 Jan 2011	Announced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
18 Mar 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
5 Jan 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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