

Catherine's Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 17 September 2019

Service provided by:
McAllister, Catherine

Service provider number:
SP2014986309

Care service number:
CS2014331052

Introduction

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

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 14 November 2014.

Catherine's Childminding (Catherine McAllister) provides a childminding service from her family home in the town of Darvel, East Ayrshire. She is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminders family.

Other conditions of registration unique to the service:

Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.
Overnight service will not be provided.

A full statement of the childminder's aims and objectives are available.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection that took place on Tuesday 17 September 2019 between the hours of 10.40am - 12.25pm. We provided the childminder with feedback on 17 September 2019.

To assess how well the childminder had been providing care to the children using the service we gathered information from a range of sources. Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) quality indicators were used to ensure a holistic approach. More information about the GIRFEC approach can be found at www.hubcareinspectorate.com.

During this inspection we looked around the areas of the childminders home used by the minded children and we gathered evidence from various sources, including the following:
We spoke with:

- The childminder
- Three minded children

We looked at:

- Children's personal plans
- All about me records
- Service policy and procedures
- Risk assessments
- Parental permissions
- Accident and incident recording forms
- Registration certificate
- Insurance certificates
- Medication records
- Training records.

Views of people using the service

We sent out three care standards questionnaires and asked the childminder to give them to families who used her service. Prior to inspection, we received two completed questionnaires. Responses in the care standards questionnaire told us that the parent strongly agreed that they were happy with the overall quality of care their child received. Comments made included,

"X gets opportunities to play outdoors involving water play, trips to the park, regular walks and trips to see animals in the field"

"My childminder uses a daily diary to communicate. I also get regular progress reports and discussions throughout the months"

"There are varied activities depending on the weather. My child is given the choice of toys allowing her independence".

Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self-assessment from the childminder.

The childminder identified what she did well and gave examples of how she worked closely with parents to ensure that she met the care needs of every child. The childminder told us that she uses information gathered to improve future care

What the service did well

The childminder provided a welcoming environment for the children she minded. She was friendly and approachable and the children present were seen to be relaxed and comfortable in her care throughout our inspection. The childminder knew the children well and we saw her being responsive to the needs of the children in her care.

What the service could do better

The childminder should review children's personal plans to ensure they reflect the current legislation. The childminder should also review children's sleeping routines in line with safe sleep guidance. We have also asked the childminder to ensure that appropriate notification is made to Care Inspectorate if she makes a child protection referral.

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

The childminder provided warm, nurturing care to meet children's individual needs. Children's personal plan information regularly reviewed and families were kept the up to date about the care their child received. We asked the childminder to ensure that the information recorded in personal plans considered how children's health, safety and wellbeing was being met.

The childminder had developed partnership working with families using her service. Children were at home in the service and appeared to be happy and relaxed. It was clear that they had very positive relationships with the childminder, her family and with each other. This supported them to feel confident and respected.

Children had opportunity to direct their own play and activities making choices to stimulate their learning and curiosity. During the inspection they played imaginatively exploring the resources. Regular outdoor play allowed children to explore a natural environment and enjoy physical play. Children were included in planning play activities recorded in a floor book to share with children and their families.

Children benefitted from fresh air and outdoor play in the garden and specific outings to local parks, included in their community. The childminder ensured they had regular opportunity to be active. Some children had meals provided by the childminder and she told us if children received meals she referred to nutritional guidance when planning menus, involving children, to support them in making healthy choices.

Children received nurturing and affectionate care from the childminder. Children were supported to develop a positive view of themselves developing confidence and self esteem. The childminder explained how she would support positive behaviour by talking to the children, giving them time to think about their actions and always worked in liaison with families if any concerns arose.

The childminder was clear in her responsibilities to ensure children were safe and protected from harm and abuse. We highlighted the Care Inspection notification process to the childminder and asked her to make notification where required.

Suitable measures for medication storage and administration were in place. This meant if children needed medication to support their health and wellbeing whilst attending the service it would be done safely

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 – very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We found that the childminders' home environment was child-friendly, well maintained, clean, warm and welcoming for children attending the service.

The childminder had a playroom for the minded children. A good range of resources were provided, including a comfortable sofa for the children to relax on. On the day of inspection, we saw the children choosing toys they wanted to play with, allowing them to make choices and to promote their independence. The children present during our inspection told us that they liked the toys available to them and they told us what activities were their favourites.

The childminders' home had a spacious kitchen where the children could do arts and crafts, homework and help prepare and eat their snacks. The childminder had considered the layout of her rooms creating a warm, nurturing environment that made good use of the space available. We saw that children could choose to play by themselves or with others. There was space for children to eat and rest when they wanted to.

To ensure that she provides a safe environment for the children, the childminder told us she cleans her home environment on a daily basis. We saw that the childminder had stored all cleaning products securely in a locked cupboard. The childminder told us how she used daily visual checks to make sure her home was hazard free, safe and child-friendly. This told us that the childminder was vigilant in her care of the minded children. A procedure for recording accidents and incidents was in place and shared with parents. The childminder had considered the procedure she would follow if a child had an accident.

The childminder told us she used outdoor play to encourage children to be active and to develop their physical co-ordination. Children had daily access to fresh air and energetic play. We found the back garden to be tidy and secure, offering a good range of toys and equipment, including an outdoor kitchen, sandpit, sit-n-rides and a swing seat. This promoted children's general health, well-being, confidence and risk taking.

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 and used their publications and website for advice and support. She also accessed a range of resources from the Care Inspectorate information 'Hub', including supporting guidance and best practice information, to support improvement. Close links with other childminders in the area offered the opportunity for professional discussion and sharing of good practice and ideas.

The childminder had accessed a wide variety of training that supported her childminding role. This included first aid, child protection, nurture factor, adversity is not destiny training. During the inspection, we saw evidence of how the childminder's training had made a positive impact on her practice, improving outcomes for children; for example, how she supported children's behaviour. The childminder maintained a training log of the courses she had attended. We saw that she had used this to reflect on her practice; she should continue to develop this.

We reviewed the policies and procedures that the childminder shared with families. She kept these well organised and they clearly showed relevant information about, and expectations of, the service. This ensured that families received and understood information. We asked that she update her child protection policy to reflect current guidelines on notifications.

Overall, we found the childminder to be dedicated and committed to providing positive outcomes for children. It was clear that she had played a valuable role in children and families' lives

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

Recommendation 1

The childminder should update administration, recording and storage of medication procedures in line with the current health guidance on the Management of Medication in Daycare and Childminding Services.

National Care Standards for early education and childcare up to the age of 16, standard 3: health and wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 18 November 2015.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder submitted an action plan to Care Inspectorate on 8 January 2016. They wrote, I have purchased a thermometer strip. I have placed all individual children's medication in separate clearly labelled secure containers. I have updated my medication recording paperwork in line with Management of Medication in Daycare and Childminding Services guidelines. I will put more detail in this paper work regarding reasons for administering medication to children in my care. I always inform carers of this within their daily diaries and verbally on collection.

During this inspection we sampled the records the childminder had completed when she had administered medication to a minded child. We found that the administration of medication records were completed appropriately.

Recommendation is met.

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	
29 Oct 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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