

McKeown, Gillian

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 26 September 2019

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2011981710

Care service number:
CS2011281649

Introduction

The Care Inspectorate 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 30 June 2011.

Gillian McKeown referred to as the childminder in this report, is the provider of Gillian McKeown childminding. She is registered to provide a childminding service to a maximum of eight children at any one time under the age of 16 years, 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 children of the childminder's family.

The service is run from the childminder's home in Dalgety Bay and is situated close to local primary schools and parks. The house is well-maintained and organised to meet children's needs. Children have access to the living room, playroom, kitchen and large enclosed back garden.

The childminder aims to provide:

"Early learning and childcare in a safe 'home from home' environment, where children are happy, grow in confidence, valued and respected."

"A service where they learn through creative play and predominantly outdoor learning. The environment is based on a philosophy of kindness to others, and respect and is a place where children can develop independence."

"Most of all a place where children have fun."

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

What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection, which took place in the afternoon of Thursday 26 September 2019 between 10:00 and 12:15. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate Early Years Inspector.

As part of the inspection, we took account of the completed annual return and self-assessment forms that we asked the childminder to complete and return to us. We spoke with one child who was very happy with the service provided.

During this inspection, we gathered evidence from a number of sources, including the following:

We spoke with:

- the children present
- the childminder.

We observed and viewed:

- the environment
- the childminder's practice and interactions with the minded child
- the children playing.

We looked at the following evidence:

- children's information
- accident records
- administration of medicine records
- photographs
- policies including child protection, medication and infection control
- certificate of registration.

We took account of all of the above information when we evaluated this service and wrote this report.

Please note that all parents and carers will be referred to as 'parents' throughout this report.

Views of people using the service

There were two children present during the inspection, one was aged five months and the second child was aged one. Both children were new into the service and were very settled and content. The older child was exploring the toys and bringing them from the playroom in to the living room and happy to engage with us.

Parents were invited to contact us to give us their views about the service, however, we did not receive any feedback. We saw some regular satisfaction surveys the childminder gave to parents, which informed us that they were happy with the service provided.

Self assessment

We received a fully completed self assessment from the childminder. We advised her that this form could be used to add some areas for development and any changes she had made. For example, the introduction of natural play resources to the environment and to show the positive impact this had on outcomes for children. This section is mandatory

What the service did well

Kindness was at the core of this service. The childminder was very committed to meeting children's needs and focused on finding out about new children's routines. As a result, they were settled and comfortable in her care.

What the service could do better

We suggested to the childminder that she could consider developing training records and quality monitoring sheets to record the impact made on the outcomes for children that we saw in practice.

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 nurturing and caring childminder managed her service to a very good standard. During our visit, we saw settled and confident children, who clearly felt comfortable in the childminder's care. Kindness was at the core of the service, resulting in children feeling safe and secure.

Children's needs were identified through working in partnership with parents and children, who were included in decision making. Children were able to choose their activities, for example, they were asked where they would like to go during the summer holidays. Parents and children were respected and included.

Recording of children's learning was very good. Photographs and text in the floor book told the story about the breadth of learning experiences provided. Children regularly contributed to the floor book by adding photographs and writing comments. Tracking sheets, which identified children's next steps in learning, were used to ensure that children were making progress at an appropriate pace. Similarly, the childminder formally shared a summary of children's learning every six months with parents. This kept parents fully involved and ensured a shared approach to supporting children's learning. We suggested to the childminder that she used the language of the wellbeing indicators, (safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included) through her observations of children's learning and reminded her about the importance of dating all records.

Children's care needs were met effectively as the childminder gathered all relevant information and kept this under regular review. This ensured that children's care and welfare needs were consistently met. Similarly, the childminder demonstrated a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection and administered medication safely, as required. This helped to keep children safe and protected.

New children and parents were supported to settle into the service and the childminder spent time getting to know children and parents needs and routines. As a result, new children settled into the service well. The childminder worked in partnership with the local nursery and school to share relevant and important information to ensure that there was continuity in children's care and learning needs.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 – very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The very good environment supported children's learning and development. There was a designated playroom, steeped in interesting play materials for children to explore and discover. Children were able to transport toys from the playroom to the living room. The large table in the dining area was used for arts and crafts, meals and snacks. Children were provided with space and freedom to choose where and what they would like to play.

The childminders home was safe, hygienic, clean and tidy. Childminding areas were risk assessed daily, as were outdoor experiences and trips. When appropriate, the childminder would include children in risk assessing. This supported them to understand the importance of keeping safe.

The variety of toys and equipment within the childminder's home and garden were very good. The childminder had researched the benefits of using natural open-ended resources (loose parts). As a result of this research, she had introduced loose parts indoors and outdoors, such as, peacock feathers, corks and cardboard tubing. This supported children to develop creativity and imagination skills and offered more engaging and challenging experiences. The large south-facing garden also housed a range of loose parts, a decked area for eating, ride on toys and a sand pit. Children benefited from free access to the outdoors and were developing an appreciation of active play and keeping healthy.

Very good use was made of the local community and there were regular visits to toddler groups, the library and parks. Children also benefited from outings to a variety of exciting places including four beaches, the woodland and coastal walks. This gave them opportunities to assess and manage risks, develop confidence during physical play and be active participants in their community. Being active and healthy supported children's all round health and wellbeing.

We reminded the childminder about procedures for recording accidents and advised her that she needed to record all accidents, regardless if further medical treatment is required or not. This would ensure that children were kept safe and parents kept well informed.

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 was managed to a very good standard. The childminder was highly committed to training and was currently working towards a Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) in Childhood Practice. She had recently completed courses in outdoor play, child lead planning and child protection. Similarly, she continued to be a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and had recently attended their four day community childminding course. As a result, she had recently become a community childminder. Similarly, she was also a member of a multi-professional group, who met monthly to develop their understanding of adverse childhood experiences (stressful or traumatic experiences that can have a huge impact on children throughout their lives). This commitment helped her to make improvements to ensure best outcomes for children. We suggested that she kept training records to evidence what training she had done and record the impact her new knowledge had on children's experiences.

The childminder kept up to date with the range of best practice documents and was planning to update records to reference the National Health and Social Care Standards. Children were encouraged to be involved in making decisions to improve the service. Their opinions were valued. The childminder kept her service under review by gathering feedback from parents and children. She had formalised this using questionnaires, which were supporting her in responding to children's needs. This helped parents and children to feel respected and included in the development of the service. Children and parent questionnaires were continually reviewed to reflect current practice, making them meaningful and useful when making improvements. We suggested that the childminder considered keeping an improvement record, or a self-evaluation folder of planned improvements to evidence the impact that specific improvements made to the service. We advised that this may include changes made as a result of comments made in parent and children questionnaires.

The childminder planned to go into partnership with the local authority to provide quality funded places for children from the age of three years. We recognised that she was well placed to do this.

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

To improve outcomes for children effective systems to evaluate and develop the service should be implemented.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 – Standard 13: Improving the service and Standard 14: A well-managed service.

This recommendation was made on 19 September 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

We gave further advice about recording the impact of training and improvements made.

This 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	
21 Aug 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 5 - Very good Not assessed 3 - Adequate
6 Nov 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed 4 - Good
18 Sep 2014	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed 3 - Adequate
11 Jul 2012	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed

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