

Gracie, Kathryn

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 20 February 2020

Service provided by:
Gracie, Kathryn

Service provider number:
SP2005945554

Care service number:
CS2005089545

Introduction

Kathryn Gracie is registered to provide a childminding service from her family home in a residential area within the town of Maybole, South Ayrshire near to local schools, shops and parks.

Conditions of registration:

1. To provide a service to a maximum of 6 children aged up to 16 years of age of whom no more than 6 will be under 12 and of whom, no more than 3 may not be attending primary school and of whom no more than one may be under one year of age. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family.
2. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.
3. Overnight care will not be provided.
4. Minded children will access the garden area.

It is the childminder's aim to 'provide a childcare service within a safe and fun environment for children aged 0-16 years of age'.

At the time of this inspection, three minded children were using the service.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection that took place on Thursday 20 February 2020 between the hours of 13:15pm-16:00pm. We provided feedback on 20 February 2020.

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 process, 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 children present during inspection.

We looked at:

- Children's information records
- Children's personal plans
- Daily attendance register
- Risk assessments
- Parental permissions
- Accident 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 this inspection two questionnaires were returned. Comments included:

"My little one adores her childminder and I personally think she is fabulous"

"My little one and myself couldn't be happier about daily routines with Katie".

During our inspection a minded child told us;

"I enjoy coming here, I can play games and eat my snacks. Its good".

Self assessment

The childminder did not submit a self assessment when requested. We discussed this with the childminder and have asked her to complete self assessment when requested.

What the service did well

The childminder was friendly and approachable and the children present were seen to be relaxed and comfortable in her care during 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

We have made four recommendations to the childminder during this inspection and asked her to address these:

1. The childminder should further develop the personal plans for each child in her care. These should show how she will meet individual children's health care needs. They should also be reviewed at least once every six months.
2. The childminder should undertake a child protection awareness course at the earliest opportunity.
3. The childminder should identify and access training/learning opportunities which enable her to develop her skills and keep up to date with current childcare practice. This should also included reviewing relevant publications available on the Care Inspectorate website.
4. The childminder should organise and review her service policies and procedures. The childminder should submit an action plan detailing action taken and undertake self assessment and submit annual returns to Care Inspectorate when requested.

We have also asked the childminder to expand the daily attendance register, register her service with the Information Commissioners Office(ICO) and to update her risk assessment when required.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	3 - Adequate
Quality of environment	3 - Adequate
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	3 - Adequate

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder gathered some information for minded children. This information was used to plan how she would care for each child. We found the childminder used this information to plan her daily routines around the individual needs of the children. Parents contributed to this through discussion with the childminder.

Discussions with the childminder demonstrated she knew the children well. We discussed how the childminder should further develop the children's personal plans to ensure that they reflect the current legislation (recommendation 1).

The childminder had registered her service with the Food Standards Agency. The childminders information on food allergies was available. This told us that the childminder supported children to make healthy choices regarding food.

During this inspection we asked the childminder if she had undertaken child protection awareness. The childminder told us that she was unable to recall when she last undertook a child protection course. We have asked the childminder to source and undertake a child protection awareness course at the earliest opportunity (recommendation 2).

We asked the childminder to tell us what she did when she had to administer medication to a child in her care. The childminder told us that she had not administered medication to a minded child. She told us if she was asked to do this she had administration of medication recording forms available. We felt that the childminder had considered how she would manage the administration of medication to the minded children.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. The childminder should further develop the personal plans for each child in her care. These should show how she will meet individual children's health care needs. They should also be reviewed at least once every six months.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices (HSCS 1.15).

2. The childminder should undertake a child protection awareness course at the earliest opportunity.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: My care and support is provided in a planned and safe way, including if there is an emergency or unexpected event (HSCS 4.14).

Grade: 3 - adequate

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder used her living room for the children to play in and a range of resources were provided there including a television and a sofa for children to relax on. The childminder's kitchen had a table which the children used to eat their snacks at and to do arts and crafts. The childminder had considered the layout of her home, 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.

There was a limited range of toys and resources available; we found these to be clean, in good condition, accessible and appropriate for children's individual age and stage of development. On the day of inspection, we saw the minded children choosing toys they wanted to play with, allowing them to make choices and to promote their independence.

During our inspection, we viewed the risk assessments that the childminder had completed for her environment. We found that these were adequate. We asked the childminder to expand the risk assessments to ensure that they accurately reflect the hazards she identifies.

The childminder told us that children did not have regular access to outdoor play. We advised the childminder that children should as much as practical have daily access to outdoor play opportunities. To support her practice and to ensure she is aware of current standards, we asked the childminder to review the Health and Social Care Standards.

We have asked the childminder to expand her daily attendance register to show which children are in attendance and their times in /out of the service. The childminder told us she would do this

During our inspection we saw that the childminders bathroom was clean and suitable for use by the minded children. A range of nappy changing resources were available within the toilet area.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 3 – adequate

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We asked the childminder to tell us how she ensured that she was aware of good practice and legislation. The childminder was unable to demonstrate that she was familiar with current childcare practice guidance. The childminder told us that she was still exploring ways to access information. We discussed that as she was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association she could get information from them. We have also suggested to the childminder that she uses the Care Inspectorate 'HUB' to keep abreast of current childcare best practice (recommendation 1).

During our inspection we asked the childminder if she had attended any recent training courses. The childminder told us that she had attended first aid training and a sign language course. The childminder told us she found the sign language course interesting and that as a result of this she was able to recognise and respond to a child who had been learning to sign at his nursery school. To support her knowledge and understanding of current best practice we have asked the childminder to be proactive in accessing training and professional learning opportunities (recommendation 1).

The childminder told us that she consulted with parents and children through regular discussion with them. For example, the childminder told us that she discussed ideas for purchasing new toys with children and their parents seeking their opinions. This ensured that children and parents were actively involved in planning the service.

During inspection the childminder was unable to provide a copy of her policies and procedures, she told us that this was due to a problem with her laptop computer. We have asked the childminder to organise and review her service policies and procedures to ensure they reflect the current best practice and that this information is readily available for parents (recommendation 2).

We discussed with the childminder that she had not submitted her annual return or her self assessment when requested. The childminder had also not submitted an action plan detailing action taken to address previous recommendation made during inspection (recommendation 2).

During inspection we found that the childminders membership with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) had expired. We have asked her to re-register with them.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. The childminder should identify and access training/learning opportunities which enable her to develop her skills and keep up to date with current childcare practice. This should also included reviewing relevant publications available on the Care Inspectorate website.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: 'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes. (HSCS 3.14) and Health and Social Care Standards that state 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice,' (HSCS 4.11).

2. The childminder should organise and review her service policies and procedures. The childminder should submit an action plan detailing action taken and undertake self assessment and submit annual returns to Care Inspectorate when requested.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards that state 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes,' (HSCS 4.19).

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

Recommendation 1

The childminder must make and maintain her environment in a condition fit for childminding ensuring that there is proper provision for health and safety, infection control and food hygiene. This should include the use of single use disposable aprons when changing nappies in keeping with 'Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings (Daycare and Childminding) October 2016 available from www.hps.scot.nhs.uk

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards that state 'My environment is secure and safe.' & 'I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well maintained premises, furnishings and equipment.' (HSCS 5.17 & 5.22).

This recommendation was made on 28 June 2018.

Action taken on previous recommendation

During our visit to the service on 20 February 2020 we found that the childminder had improved her environment, this included a stock of disposable gloves and aprons for nappy changing.

Recommendation met.

Recommendation 2

The childminder should compile written risk assessments for pet management, security, general home safety and the garden.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards that state 'My environment is secure and safe' (HSCS 5.17).

This recommendation was made on 28 June 2018.

Action taken on previous recommendation

During our visit to the service on 20 February 2020 we found that the childminder had prepared written risk assessment for her home and her pet cats.

Recommendation met.

Recommendation 3

The childminder should download publications available in the Care Inspectorate website www.careinspectorate.com such as 'Our Creative Journey', 'My World Outdoors', 'My Childminding Experience', 'Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings (Daycare and Childminding)', 'Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services' and 'Fire Precautions in Domestic Childminding Premises'.

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

This recommendation was made on 28 June 2018.

Action taken on previous recommendation

During our visit to the service on 20 February 2020 we found that the childminder had not downloaded the relevant publications as advised. We also found that the childminder limited awareness of current best practice documents. See recommendation 1 for management and leadership within this report.

Recommendation not met.

Recommendation 4

The childminder should submit an action plan detailing action taken and planned to meet the recommendations made in this report and show how the childminder intends plan to improve the service in a systematic way.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards that state 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes,' (HSCS 4.19).

This recommendation was made on 28 June 2018.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder did not submit an action plan to Care Inspectorate. During our visit to the service on 20 February 2020 we discussed with the childminder that she had not submitted an action plan detailing what actions she had taken to address the previous recommendations. We reminded the childminder that she should prepare and submit action plans when requested. See recommendation 2 for management and leadership within this report.

Recommendation not 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
7 Feb 2019	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
6 Jun 2018	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership 4 - Good 2 - Weak Not assessed 3 - Adequate
15 Aug 2017	Announced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership 3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate Not assessed 3 - Adequate
22 Jun 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership 4 - Good 3 - Adequate Not assessed 3 - Adequate
17 Jun 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership 4 - Good 3 - Adequate Not assessed 4 - Good
19 Jun 2014	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership 4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed 3 - Adequate
2 Aug 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership 4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed Not assessed
30 Oct 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing 4 - Good Not assessed 4 - Good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
26 Jan 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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