

Alexander, Brenda

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 16 January 2020

Service provided by:
Brenda Alexander

Service provider number:
SP2003902107

Care service number:
CS2003003907

Introduction

The service operates from the childminder's home in Newton Mearns, in Glasgow. The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of five children at any one time under the age of sixteen, of whom a maximum of five 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 childminder's family.

At the time of the inspection two minded children were registered to attend the service. There was one minded children present during the inspection visit.

What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following a short notice announced inspection, which took place between 12:15 and 14:15 on Wednesday 15 January 2020. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate early years inspector. During this inspection we spoke with the childminder and the children present.

We observed the care given by the childminder and looked at a number of documents including health and safety records, policies and procedures and information on children. 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.

Views of people using the service

Children present were happy, settled and busy throughout our inspection.

The parent who wrote to us was happy with the care their child received:
"My child goes happily to the childminder's house and talks fondly of her at home. She has a nice, friendly and welcoming attitude and is caring."

Self assessment

The childminder did not submit her self assessment. She agreed to begin completing the document as part of her self evaluation.

What the service did well

The childminder offered a welcoming, caring setting for children. They benefited from visits to places in the community and home based play.

What the service could do better

The childminder agreed to access updated training and information sessions to ensure she was familiar with current best practice guidance. Also, to further develop children's plans to include more detailed information on them as individuals.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder provided a welcoming setting for children. We observed warm, caring engagement between the childminder during our visit. She responded to children's requests during our inspection, reading stories and providing toys.

The childminder had some written information on the children she cared for. It included contact and medical information and an All About Me form which provided some additional details on children's interests and routine.

The childminder was familiar with the SHANARRI indicators and how they support children's wellbeing. She agreed that it would be beneficial to introduce them into each of the children's plans as a way of showing how their individual wellbeing needs were met within her care.

In speaking with the childminder, we found that she had a clear understanding of each of the children she cared for. She should develop children's plans to capture her knowledge of them. (See recommendation 1).

The childminder was caring for a limited number of younger children. As a result, they benefited from spending entire afternoons playing in the childminder's home and garden or visiting local parks. The childminder took children on daily visits to local toddler groups, where they could enjoy different activities and the opportunity to play with other children. They also enjoyed the company of the childminder's grandchildren, sharing toys and activities.

Recently, she had taken them to a stay and play session at a local outdoor nursery where she had the opportunity to learn about the benefits of more risky play for children and the children had enjoyed more adventurous play.

Parents provided lunches and snacks for their child. The childminder would supplement them if required, taking account of children's dietary requirements. The childminder had a clear understanding of her role in safeguarding children. She had a written policy in place and had attended training in recent years. We discussed the childminder's procedures when giving medication to children. We found that she had suitable paperwork in place for recording parental consent and administration.

However, we asked her to update her written policy and procedures to ensure they reflected the guidance document, "Management of Medication in Day-care and childminder Settings."

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The service should have a personal plan for each child in their care. These should show how the children's health, welfare and safety needs are to be met and must be reviewed at least once every six months.

This ensures health and social care standards that state;
My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a carer plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices. (1.15)

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The layout of the childminder's home meant that children had a good amount of space to play. There was room for them to play alone or in groups and there was easy access to her back garden. The childminder had a good range of resources appropriate for the age of children in her care. She rotated them to reflect children's changing interests and to provided a variety of activities. On the day, it was building towers with large blocks.

The childminder had written policies in place which described in detail how she ensured her home was safe and clean for the children. They included a Health and Safety policy, Hygiene Policy and Accident and Incident Policy. The childminder kept a written record of any accidents and incidents involving children and shared these with parents. We asked her to introduce individual forms to ensure confidentiality is maintained.

The childminder described places she visited with the children and had written procedures in place for taking children out. We discussed the childminder's nappy changing procedures and asked that she review them to reflect current infection control guidance.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The childminder involved parents in her service by consulting with them informally and issuing questionnaires. In particular, she invited feedback on the service she provided from families who were leaving. The childminder confirmed that she would consider any suggestions they made and make changes if she felt they would have a positive impact on her service.

The childminder had recently attended training on Child Protection and had updated her policy and procedures as a result. She had also reviewed some of her other policies to reflect her service.

We discussed the importance of her accessing further training and professional development opportunities to ensure she is kept up-to-date with best practice guidance. The childminder agreed to do this as a matter of priority and recognised the benefits it would bring to her and her child-minding provision. (See recommendation 1).

She had introduced some new paperwork to children's plans and agreed to source some additional forms to ensure she could keep more detailed records on children.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The childminder should access training and professional development opportunities to strengthen her knowledge of best practice.

This ensures health and social care standards that state;
I use a service that is well organised and managed. (4.23)

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 service should have a personal plan for each child in their care. These should show how the children's health, welfare and safety needs are to be met and must be reviewed at least once every six months.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard; 3 Health and wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 9 December 2015.

Action taken on previous recommendation

We have continued with recommendation under Care and Support.

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
10 Nov 2015	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 4 - Good
2 Mar 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
17 Jun 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
4 May 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership Not assessed
22 May 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 4 - Good Staffing 3 - Adequate Management and leadership 3 - Adequate

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