

Ritchie, Linda Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 4 March 2020

Service provided by:
Ritchie, Linda

Service provider number:
SP2005953591

Care service number:
CS2005110858

Introduction

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

The service will be provided at the address detailed in the notice granting registration.

The childminder 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. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The childminder provides a service from her semi-detached property, which is situated in a quiet residential area in the Carluke area of South Lanarkshire. The children have access to the rear garden, which is child friendly and fully enclosed. The service is nearby nurseries, schools and parks.

The childminder's aims include:

'I will encourage healthy eating and outdoor play. I will be reliable, friendly and committed to your child while in my care. I will try to encourage your child to learn and play through outdoor activities, walks and nature.'

What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection which took place on Wednesday 4 March 2020 between the hours of 12:30 and 14:30. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

We observed the care and support provided by the childminder, the activities and experiences the children could take part in and the choices they could make. We sampled some documentation which included children's personal plans, certificates of registration, insurance and training. We discussed the strengths of the service and some areas for improvement.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (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 parents to work with services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

Views of people using the service

There were two minded children in attendance on the day of the inspection. We saw that both children were happy and confident in the care of the childminder.

We sent three care standards questionnaires to the childminder to distribute to the parents of children who experienced care at the service. None were returned before the inspection. We left our contact details for parents to contact us if they wished. We did not have any response from parents at the time of writing this report.

Self assessment

We received a completed self-assessment from the childminder before the inspection. This highlighted the areas the childminder felt she did well. We advised that future self-assessments should be more detailed to include outcomes for children and some areas for improvement.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a warm, homely and nurturing environment for the children in her care. She knew each of the children in her care very well and was keen to promote child-led play and learning experiences, both indoors and outdoors.

What the service could do better

The childminder should ensure she dates all recorded information to ensure there are clear records in place. She should identify her training needs, complete and evaluate training once completed. She should continue to keep up to date with current best practice. This would maintain a good quality childminding provision for children and families.

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	4 – Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder was kind, caring and nurturing towards the children as they ate their lunch and engaged in conversations and activities over the course of the inspection. This assisted children in building trusting relationships and feeling valued, loved and secure.

The childminder told us how she was responsive to children's requests for activities and play experiences. This had included a child's request to play with bubbles in the garden in the morning of the inspection and a planned visit to a garden centre to choose seeds to plant in the garden. Information about a new local park and nature walk had been shared by parents as an additional outdoor play option. This extended play and learning experiences for children, particularly over school holiday periods. The children engaged well with us over our visit, telling us:

'My Mum takes me here at eight and my Dad picks me up at seventeen!'
'We were splashing in puddles. Muddy puddles.'

We recognised that the childminder knew the children and their families well. Personal plans recorded personal information and their individual progress and development was recorded under the wellbeing indicators. However, when sampling information we saw that not all written information was dated. This meant it was unclear if this information was current or had been reviewed by parents every six months, as required. We discussed ways to improve personal plans, such as adding a review sheet within each child's personal plan and fully completing all sections of documentation. This would ensure there was current, clear information to support the child, detailing their stage of development, their up-to-date care and support needs, how their needs would be met in the service, as well as their wishes and choices. The childminder agreed to review and update personal plans.

There was a copy of current medication guidance 'Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services' within the service. The childminder had not been required to administer any medication to children, which meant we had no records to sample. However, she was clear on the procedures to follow should medication be required in the future.

Parents provided their children's meals which meant they were aware of what their children were eating each day. The childminder ensured children had access to healthy drinks and snacks over the course of the day. Children's daily intake was shared with parents. This contributed towards children's overall health and wellbeing.

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 a clean, safe environment for children to play. There was a homely, welcoming atmosphere and we saw that the children were happy and confident in the childminder's care. This created a relaxed, play and learning environment for children.

We observed the children having lunch and making choices about what to play with and where to play. This contributed towards children's confidence, self-esteem, fun and enjoyment. Activities included playing with cars, small world toys and selecting books to read. Children were talking about the weather and the outdoor play experiences they had already taken part in that day and those they had planned for the rest of the week. We saw that activities were child-led and routines and plans were changed to suit children's changing interests, moods and preferences. The childminder ensured children had daily opportunities for fresh air and active, outdoor play either in the garden, local parks and places of interest in the community, regularly exploring natural environments.

The childminder was aware of following good infection prevention and control practices and procedures for hand hygiene, nappy changing and children's personal care. She had satisfactorily addressed a recommendation made at the last inspection. This contributed to keeping children safe and healthy when in her care.

Information relating to car maintenance, insurance and car seats was made available to parents. This contributed to children's safety when travelling in the childminder's car.

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 had peer support from a group of local childminders. This provided personal support, assisted with sharing ideas, sharing good practice and access to group training events. She also kept up-to-date with publications, news and information shared by the Care Inspectorate and Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA), which she periodically used for reference. This contributed to maintaining a good quality childminding service.

We acknowledged that children and families' were involved in the service development and their views and suggestions were welcomed and included. This created an ethos where all people were respected and valued. Children and parents had been asked to make suggestions about activities for children, about the service in general and ways in which she could improve. This was done verbally and through questionnaires and text messages. All responses had been very positive.

The childminder had devised a brief improvement plan for her service which included expanding 'loose parts play' indoors and outdoors, including children in development of the garden through choosing vegetables and flowers to plant and accessing further training. She had completed first aid and child protection training since the last inspection. Outcomes from this training was shared with families and she had changed some of her practice and procedures in light of this recent knowledge. We advised recording these positive outcomes as brief evaluations following any future training attended.

When requested by the Care Inspectorate, future self-assessments should include the strengths of the service, outcomes for children and planned areas for improvement. These improvements would assist with the overall self-evaluation and quality assurance processes within the service.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - 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 ensure she is familiar with and follows current good practice guidance as stated within 'Infection prevention and control in childcare settings (daycare and childminding settings). This includes:

- using disposable gloves and disposable aprons at every nappy change
- following formula guidance for bottle-fed babies
- using running water and liquid soap for handwashing where available in preference to hand sanitiser gel.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that, I experience high quality care and support because people have the necessary information and resources. (HSCS 4.27)

This recommendation was made on 29 March 2019.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had updated her knowledge by reading and following good practice guidance 'Infection prevention and control in childcare settings (daycare and childminding settings)'. She now followed this guidance with regards to nappy changing and hand hygiene. Although she did not currently mind young babies, she was aware of best practice guidance for the preparation and storage of formula milk. Therefore, this recommendation has been addressed.

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
27 Feb 2019	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 4 - Good
23 Feb 2018	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
3 Nov 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 4 - Good
9 Nov 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
5 Nov 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good

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