

Deborah Carver's Childminding Service

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 27 February 2020

Service provided by:
Carver, Deborah

Service provider number:
SP2003907280

Care service number:
CS2003013726

Introduction

Deborah Carver's Childminding Service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, 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 childminder's family.

The childminder provides her service from her home in Aberdeen close to local amenities such as play areas, shops and library.

Aims of the service include:

- To provide a safe and secure environment
- to tend to the child's physical and emotional needs
- to provide age appropriate toys.

What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection, which took place on 27 February between 09:00 and 12:30. The inspection was carried out by one Care Inspectorate inspector.

During this inspection we spoke with the childminder and the minded children present. We observed the care given by the childminder and looked at a number of documents including children's records, policies, photos and certificates of training.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). This is 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 GIRFEC. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

Views of people using the service

Three children were present during the inspection. They were engaged in their activities and confident in talking to the inspector. They were happy and well settled in the childminder's care.

Prior to the inspection two parents/carers returned a completed Care Standard Questionnaire (CSQs) and we spoke to one parent. The responses from these demonstrated that parents were very happy with the quality of care their child received. Their comments included:

'I am 100% confident in Debbie's ability to look after, guide and teach my child in my absence.'

'My child thoroughly enjoys their time with Debbie and always goes in with a smile on their face.'

'I cannot express fully how satisfied I am and how much gratitude I have that Debbie is my childminder.'

'We have regular meetings to discuss the information about my child.'

Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self assessment document from the childminder before the inspection. The childminder identified what they thought they did well and told us how she helped meet the needs of the children in her care. The childminder told us how parents and children had taken part in the self assessment process.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a friendly and welcoming environment for children and their families. Children were happy and relaxed and had a very good relationship with the childminder.

Children were able to choose from a range of toys and games suitable for their age and stage of development.

What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to develop her records to show children's progress and achievements. The childminder should use her knowledge of best practice guidance available to support her in evaluating her service against national guidance and identify areas for improvement.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very 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

Nurturing relationships had been formed with the children who were happy and confident. The childminder and the children played and talked together in an easy affectionate manner. The childminder supported the children in their activities and encouraged them to express their views and ideas. This encouraged the children to feel valued and respected.

We found the childminder collated information from parents before children started at the service. This included contact details, any allergy or medical needs and their doctor and health visitor details. The information supported the childminder in promoting children's health and wellbeing. Children's daily routines from home, likes and dislikes were recorded to ensure a continuity of care. Personal plans were reviewed every six months with parents to ensure the information remained current and up-to-date.

The childminder knew the children in her care well. She had started to record her observations of the children's achievements and identify areas where she could support children further. We discussed ways that she could further develop this area to ensure that she is supporting children to achieve their full potential. For example, using the well-being indicators as a recording tool to show progress and help identify where further support could be provided to the children. We also suggested that she include some of the strategies that she used to support the children. This will help the childminder plan activities and accurately share information with parents and other agencies on how best to meet their child's needs.

In order to safeguard children, the childminder had a good understanding of child protection issues. She was able to tell us the correct procedures to follow if concerned about the welfare of a child. She was confident in discussing factors which may impact on a child's well being and how she could support them and their families at these times. Significant events in children's lives were recorded by the childminder. We suggested referral to guidance 'Practice Guide to Chronologies' - <http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/468617/practice-guide-to-chronologies-2017.pdf> would support the childminder to develop this further.

To promote children's health the childminder followed current guidance on the administration of medication. Paperwork was in place to support her in recording accurate information and a policy was shared with parents, so they knew what to expect. The childminder provided snacks, drinks and meals, consistent with nutritional guidance 'Setting the Table'.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The environment was clean, warm, comfortable and inviting to children. There was a dedicated playroom upstairs and children could also access the lounge for games. The kitchen dining table was used for craft activities and messy play. There was comfy seating available for children to rest and relax. Younger toddlers and babies were able to use a travel cot for sleeping.

Resources reflected the interests of the children. The childminder supported children's choice with a variety of age appropriate toys that were easily accessible in the playroom. However, the opportunities for children to explore and investigate could be further extended. We discussed with the childminder ways to extend the use of open ended and natural resources indoors and out and suggested documents which would support this. My World Outdoors - <http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/279348/my-world-outdoors-sharing-good-practice-in-how-early-years-services-can-provide-play-and-learning-wholly-or-partially-outdoors.pdf>

Our Creative Journey - <http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/603624/our-creative-journey-aug-17-master-combined.pdf>

Loose Parts Toolkit - <http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/405223/loose-parts-play-toolkit.pdf>.

Children's health was supported by daily access to the outdoors. The large fully enclosed garden helped keep children safe within the boundaries of the property. A range of play equipment supported children's physical development and imaginative play. The childminder extended children's experiences by using local amenities such as play areas and forest walks. She also attended local toddler groups and book bug sessions with the children. This ensured the children were confident in and felt part of their local community.

The childminder followed appropriate infection, prevention and control procedures. The children were encouraged to wash their hands before eating and were supported to understand the need for positive personal hygiene routines. The childminder described best practice procedures to complete a nappy change.

In order to promote children's health, the childminder had attended first aid training and was able describe how to deal with minor scrapes and more serious emergencies. Any accidents or incidents were recorded on appropriate forms and the information shared with parents. Written risk assessments were in place for both the indoor and outdoor environments to help identify any potential hazards and prevent accidents.

Appropriate seating and utensils were used during meal and snack times to support children's independence. Children were encouraged to voice their opinions and choices which supported them to feel listened to and respected.

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 demonstrated a commitment to providing a quality service. Her friendly reassuring manner meant that she provided a service that was supportive and caring to the families she works with. The

importance of working in partnership with the children and their families was valued. This led to positive outcomes for children using the service.

A variety of policies had been developed by the childminder to support her practice. These were shared with parents, supporting them to know what to expect from the service. We suggested that the childminder ensure that they accurately reflect her procedures to promote consistent information sharing.

The childminder was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and we discussed how this supported her to keep up-to-date with changes to guidance and legislation. The childminder felt the network meetings, as well as access to the magazine and website were an important part of this. For example, we discussed a recent network meeting which shared information about the new document Realising the Ambition. The childminder also attended local childminding group meetings where she was able to share ideas and experiences and gain support.

The childminder had ensured her core training was up-to-date and attended a range of other training opportunities to raise her awareness of children's health, bullying, autism, dyslexia and quality environments. While the childminder was able to give examples of changes she had made in response to training we suggested that recording the changes planned or made would assist her in evaluating her learning and ensuring it had a positive impact on her practice.

Children and their parents were invited to give feedback to the service verbally each day and through regular questionnaires. The childminder also took account of her observations on what engaged children when planning activities. We suggested that the use of the online resource Your Childminding Journey - <http://hub.careinspectorate.com/knowledge/useful-links/2017/09/your-childminding-journey/> may support the childminder in evaluating her service against national guidance and identifying areas where further development would have a positive impact on the experience and outcomes for children.

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

In order to support the health, wellbeing and safety of the children the childminder to ensure her parents complete a separate signed permission for each new medication they are asking her to administer.

National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 2: a safe environment; Standard 3: health and wellbeing; and Standard 14: well-managed service.

This recommendation was made on 17 December 2015.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Although no children were currently in need of medication we saw that the childminder had forms in place to record the permission to give and the administration of any medication. These were in line with the guidance management of administration of medication. This recommendation has been 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	
10 Nov 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed 5 - Very good
5 Nov 2014	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 3 - Adequate Not assessed 4 - Good
7 Dec 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
30 Mar 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed

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