

Nicola's Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 23 November 2016

Service provided by:
McSorley, Nicola

Service provider number:
SP2014986610

Care service number:
CS2014334356

Introduction

Nicola McSorley (referred to as the childminder throughout this report) is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of 6 will be under 12, 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 services which has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since 2015 operates from the family home which is located in a residential area close to local amenities. Children have access to the lounge, supervised access to the kitchen and bathroom. A garden to the rear of the house is available for supervised outdoor play.

During the inspection two minded children aged three and five years were present.

The written aims of the service included the following statement:

'To provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment, where children up to the age of 13 years old can play, grow and learn whilst having fun in my care and home settings, giving the parent/carer the confidence in me to let them do so.'

What we did during our inspection

We completed this report following a short announced inspection, which took place between 9:30 and 11:15 am on Wednesday 23 November 2016. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate early years inspector.

During the inspection we spoke to the childminder. We observed the care given by the childminder and looked at a number of documents including planning information, children's records and the methods in place for evaluating the service. We also looked at the childminding environment and considered the experiences of the 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 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.

Views of people using the service

There were two children present on the day of this inspection. We observed the interaction between the childminder and children and found the relationship to be warm and nurturing. Both children appeared happy and contented in their childminder's company.

We sent three care standards questionnaires to the childminder to give to families who use the service. Two were returned before the inspection.

During the inspection we gave our contact details of the inspector for the childminder, to share these with parents if they wished to give feedback about the service they received. Prior to writing this report no parents had made contact.

Self assessment

The service explained the reasons for failing to submit their self-assessment. We were satisfied by this response, but reminded the childminder for future inspections that she must complete this.

What the service did well

The childminder was attentive and nurturing toward the children in her care. She demonstrated a very good awareness of the need to develop positive working relationships with the families who used her service.

What the service could do better

This is the childminder's first inspection since she became registered. She should continue to develop all aspects of her service.

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	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder was very good at gathering essential information from parents at the initial visits when she asked them to complete an 'All about Me' form. This provided information relating to their child's likes, dislikes, interests and care routines. It also helped assisted the childminder because it gave her an insight into the children coming into her care and enabled her to provide right type of care to support and nurture them. This made children feel safe and nurtured because the childminder took account of their personal preferences to ensure their needs were met.

Parents had many opportunities to share information about their child, through informal methods, such as chatting to them at drop off and pick up times, text messages and phone calls. The childminder discussed the importance of parents sharing information with her because it enabled her to provide their child with the care and support they needed. This demonstrated to parents that the childminder respected their right to be as fully involved in decisions relating to the day-to-day care of their child.

Her needs led settling in process helped children to feel nurtured because parents could take the lead and decide when they felt their child was able to cope without them. This contributed to them feel secure, because their settles were sensitively managed.

The behaviour management strategies in place were child centred and appropriate for children's developmental stage. The childminder understood the importance of modelling the desired behaviours that she liked to see in her service. She acknowledged the importance of modelling positive behaviour as a way to show children how to manage situations appropriately. Chatting to children who were involved in disputes provided opportunities for them to discuss their behaviour and consider the different ways they could make this right with their friends. This type of practice helped children to become aware of their responsibility for managing their emotions and the importance of showing respect to their friends.

Active play opportunities were provided on a daily basis through organised forest walks, where children could climb in trees and explore their environment. Regular use of the garden further promoted children's overall health and development as they could burn off excess energy and play in the fresh air.

Child protection concerns were managed well in the service and the childminder demonstrated a very good understanding of what may indicate that a child was 'at risk'. The childminder gave an accurate account of her responsibility for protecting the children in her care and was knowledgeable about the 'named person' in the GIRFEC model.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder described how her calming environment helped to create a homely place for children to relax, and feel welcomed. The childminder told us that she tried wherever possible to follow children's daily routines because this helped them feel secure and settled.

Encouraging children to tidy away their toys and activities helped to develop their understanding of their responsibility for looking after the things that they liked to play with.

The childminder described the variety of methods in place to protect the children in her care and promote their health, well-being and keep them safe. The examples she gave confirmed that she was performing to a very good standard in this area. On the day of this inspection children were cared for in a warm and hygienically maintained environment.

Keeping parents informed of any accidents or incidents respected their right to receive an accurate account of what had happened to their child and the action the childminder had taken. This very good practice contributed to children receiving a consistent level of care, because the childminder fully involved parents in managing the situation. This meant that children were supported in a manner, which reflected their parents wishes.

Risk assessing her home and places she visited with children, meant that the childminder was able to identify quickly any changes that may have arisen and put additional safety measures in place to protect the children in her care. To further promote children's health and wellbeing we suggested to the childminder that she should consider developing writing risk assessments for outings and visits to parks.

Children were encouraged to experience measured risks because the childminder understood that in order for children to manage risk they first must experience what it feels like. This helped children to become

aware and responsible for their personal safety and judge what they could or could not do. To further support her practice in this area we suggest that the childminder consider referring the 'My World Outdoors.'

The childminder promoted children's health and well-being in a variety of ways, for example, she encouraged them to wash their hands before they ate and after they had been playing in the garden. Chatting to children as they did this increased their understanding of their responsibility keeping their bodies healthy.

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 quality of management and leadership within the service was good. We concluded this after discussion with the childminder, assessing the ways she encouraged parents and children to evaluate her service, looked at the training opportunities that she had undertaken.

Undertaking training relevant to her role enabled the childminder to provide appropriate support to individual children, which took account of their differing needs. This helped children feel included because the childminder respected their right to have their needs met by someone who had a better understanding of the support they needed in order to promote their life chances.

Although, the childminder was aware of the wellbeing indicators she had yet to start using them within her service. We suggested that she consider implementing the indicators into her service, when she is monitoring children's progress. This will show parents how she is meeting their child's individual needs under each indicator.

Chatting to the childminder confirmed that parents and children could approach her at anytime and give their feedback on the service she provided. She told us that if parents or children made a request, or asked for something to be changed or reviewed she would always try to accommodate their wishes. Discussion with the childminder highlighted that she understood the benefits of asking parents and children to feedback their concerns and suggestions about the quality of her service. This demonstrated to us that she respected their views and their right to be involved in her service.

The childminder described how she made use of 'Facebook', the Scottish Child Minding Association's (SCMA) magazine and website as a means of further increasing her awareness of new initiatives occurring within childminding. This helped to improve outcomes for children because the childminder was always up-to-date with best practice and new guidance.

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

There are no outstanding recommendations.

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

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

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