

Currie, Stephanie

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 2 June 2021

Service provided by:
Stephanie Currie

Service provider number:
SP2019990800

Care service number:
CS2019377095

Introduction

Stephanie Currie was registered with the Care Inspectorate as a childminder on 18 November 2019. The service is registered to care for a maximum of 8 children at any one time up to the age of 16 years, of whom no more than 6 may be under the age of 12 years, no more than 3 are not yet attending Primary School and no more than 1 is under the age of 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The childminder operates the service from her home, a three bedroom house with a playroom in a residential area of Carnoustie.

The childminder's aims and objectives included the following:

To provide a safe, clean, loving home life with a stimulating environment where your child can play and learn, a place where your child can feel happy and secure.

What we did during our inspection

An inspection of the service was carried out during May and June 2021. Unannounced site visits were made to the service on 10 and 12 May 2021. These visits were very short in duration due to the childminder's other commitments. We then arranged a further site visit that took place on 17 May 2021. During the site visit we spoke with the childminder and the children and observed the childminder's practice. Following on from this we used virtual technology, including video calls and emails to complete the inspection. We assessed relevant documents that we requested from the childminder. Feedback was provided to the childminder on 2 June 2021.

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 and included.

During this inspection we also evaluated how well children were being supported during the Covid-19 pandemic. We evaluated the service based on key areas that are vital to the support and wellbeing of children experiencing care during the pandemic.

This was the service's first inspection. This inspection was carried out by two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate.

Views of people using the service

We spoke with one minded child during the inspection. The child told us that he liked going to the childminder's house and seeing the other children. The child told us that the best thing he did was "play with the cars." He told us that they "sometimes go to the beach park" and spend time outside.

We received feedback from one parent via email. The parent spoke very positively about the service their child received.

The parent told us that the childminder knew their child well. They further described an appropriate settling in process and noted that there was regular, good quality communication. The parent told us "(child's

name) has the opportunity to enjoy regular fresh air and exercise whilst in Stephanie's care, he enjoys the walk to school and when he fancies some time in the garden he is encouraged from Stephanie to go out."

The parent told us that "having had a number of not so good experiences with childminders in the past with (child's name), having him attend Stephanie's has been a breath of fresh air. He looks forward to going to hers in the morning and is happy and settled when he is there, we just wish he had attended hers sooner. Both Stephanie and her family have welcomed him in like he is part of the family. We couldn't ask for better care."

Self assessment

A self assessment was not requested of the childminder prior to the inspection taking place.

What the service did well

The childminder was caring in her approach with the children and she knew them well. We saw that the children were comfortable and settled in the childminder's care.

What the service could do better

The childminder needs to ensure she has personal plans in place for all children she cares for which reflect their needs, choices and wishes and other key information. This is important to enable the childminder to support positive outcomes effectively for the children.

The childminder had not undertaken any training relevant to her childminding role since becoming registered. Undertaking training and being knowledgeable about best practice is essential for ensuring a high quality service which supports the best outcomes for children.

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	2 - Weak

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We found the quality of care and support to be adequate.

The childminder was warm and appropriate in her interactions with the children. The children readily approached her and were comfortable in her care.

Although the childminder knew the children well, she only had a personal plan in place for one of the three

children she was currently caring for. This is reported on more fully under quality theme 4 - management and leadership and a requirement has been made.

Appropriate settling in procedures dependent on each child's individual needs were described by the childminder. The settling in policy should be further developed to reflect this. A parent who provided feedback to us indicated the settling in process was appropriate.

A 'positive behaviour management in the early years' policy was in place. It included some positive guidance such as using praise and ensuring children felt valued. Advice was given to the childminder to amend some of the content which read as less positive and did not reflect how the childminder said she would respond to challenges. Observations indicated that the childminder had a positive approach to resolving small disagreements between the children. Her interactions took into account the different ages and stages of the children she was caring for.

The childminder talked about how she always had a range of fruit readily available to the children to select from. Through discussion with the childminder and our observations our view was that children were provided with too many unhealthy snacks such as biscuits and crisps. More information on supporting children to have positive eating experiences and enjoy well-balanced, nutritious food can be found at:

Setting the Table - Nutritional Guidance and Food Standards for early years childcare providers in Scotland
<http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/30341-Setting the Table.pdf>

Food Matters

<https://hub.careinspectorate.com/how-we-support-improvement/care-inspectorate-programmes-and-publications/food-matters/>

During our observations we saw children building towers with wooden blocks. The television was on for the duration of the site visit. We spoke with the childminder about making sure children did not receive too much screen time. The childminder told us that the children loved playdough and enjoyed going to local parks and the beach and going for walks. She told us that a firm favourite with the children was visiting the nearest trampoline park which they would do in the school holidays where time allows.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 3 - adequate

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We found the quality of the environment to be adequate.

The childminder's home was welcoming and homely. The environment was visibly clean, tidy and odour free.

Resources in the playroom were stacked up, making it difficult for children to see what was available, make choices and access independently. Much of the resources were plastic and we spoke with the childminder about the benefits of having more natural open ended resources available. This would support children to use their imagination and to problem solve. More information on improving the children's play environment can be found at:

Loose Parts Play - A Toolkit

<https://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/1258/loose-parts-play-toolkit.pdf>

Realising the Ambition

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/realising-the-ambition/>

The rear garden was of a good size for children to enjoy energetic play. It was fully enclosed and therefore supported a safe environment.

We discussed nappy changing practice with the childminder and looked at her nappy changing policy. The childminder was not removing her gloves and apron at the correct point during the procedure. This meant that there was a risk of cross infection. We recommended that the childminder develop her nappy changing policy further to include all the steps and the point at which gloves and aprons should be removed (see recommendation 1).

The childminder spoke clearly about the action she was taking to reduce the risk of infection of Covid-19. These included arrangements for dropping off and collecting children, ventilation and cleaning routines. A parent we made contact with indicated that she was aware of action the childminder was taking to control infection. The childminder told us she used the same towel for children drying their hands and replaced it with a clean one daily. We suggested other options she could consider that would reduce the risk of infection further and the childminder was very receptive to this advice.

A Covid-19 risk assessment was in place but some of the content was not relevant to the service. It needs to be reviewed and amended to ensure that it is totally applicable to the service. It also requires to be kept up to date to take account of changing best practice guidance (see recommendation 2).

The childminder was clear about symptoms of Covid-19 to look out for and spoke clearly about action she would take should she have concerns.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. To reduce the risk of cross infection the childminder should develop her nappy changing policy in line with current best practice.

This is in order to ensure that high quality care is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'As a child, I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice.' (HSCS 4.11).

'Infection prevention and Control in Childcare Settings (Daycare and Childminding Settings)' <http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/726344/infection-prevention-and-control-daycare-and-childminding-settings-2018.pdf>.

2. To support the safety and wellbeing of children the childminder should review and amend her Covid-19 risk assessment to ensure it meets the needs of the service.

This is in order to ensure that high quality care is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'My environment is secure and safe.' (HSCS 5.17).

Grade: 3 - adequate

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We found the quality of management and leadership to be weak.

The childminder did not have in place personal plans for two of the three children she was currently caring for (see requirement 1). Personal plans are needed to ensure that all information required in order to support the child is available which reflect children's individual needs and preferences. The childminder arranged to have this documentation completed and submitted to us immediately following on from the site visit. There continued to be some gaps in the personal plans completed such as the children's start date, health visitor details and parents' contact details (see requirement 1).

The childminder had not completed any training specific to childminding since she was registered by the Care Inspectorate. She had completed some general non childminder specific child protection training. The childminder did have an adequate understanding of child protection and her child protection policy was of a good standard. It included stating that the childminder would follow the National Guidance and that the childminder wouldn't necessarily notify parents before referring concerns on to police or social work. The policy should also be clear however about the action the childminder would take if a child protection allegation was made in relation to the childminder or a family member living in the house. It is important for the childminder to attend child protection training for childminders which include scenarios related to childminding and an opportunity to explore issues with other childminders. This will help support her to recognise and respond appropriately to safeguard children (see requirement 2). The following guidance will support the childminder with this requirement:

'National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014'

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-guidance-child-protection-scotland/>

The childminder had completed first aid training outwith her childminding role. It expired November 2020 although we acknowledged that due to the pandemic, options to attend face to face training had been significantly delayed. The childminder intends to have her training refreshed as soon as possible (see requirement 2).

The childminder had not completed any infection control training. We found that her procedure for nappy changing was not in line with best practice (see requirement 2).

The childminder did not demonstrate that she was familiar with any best practice guidance. She told us that she was not aware of the Care Inspectorate Hub where all best practice is accessible to providers and the general public (see requirement 2).

We discussed with the childminder the need to ensure the language she uses is professional at all times when she is providing a childminding service.

There had been a delay in the childminder notifying us of key information in relation to her childminding service including notifications and the annual return. It is important that the childminder notify us in line with the required timescales. This is because we may need to take action or provide advice in relation to information provided to us (see requirement 3).

Public liability insurance and car insurance were both in place.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 3

1. To ensure that the individual care and support needs of children are fully met, the childminder must ensure that personal plans for children are in place and highlight any specific needs of individual children and provide full information about how they will be met by (date from 1 week of draft report being sent out).

This is in order to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) 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); and

In order to comply with Regulation 4 (1) (a) and 5 (1) and (2) of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011.

2. To ensure that children achieve high quality care and support the childminder should undertake ongoing training and research best practice related to her role to keep her knowledge and skills up to date (by 6 months from date of draft report being sent out).

This is in order 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 based on relevant experience, guidance and best practice.' (HSCS 4.11);

In order to comply with Regulation 15 (a) and (b) of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011.

3.

The childminder must supply the Care Inspectorate with any information relating to the service which it considers necessary, including notification and annual returns (by 24 hours from date of draft report going out).

This is in order to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed.' (HSCS 4.23); and

In order to comply with section 53(6) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

'Records childminding services must keep and guidance on notification reporting'

[https://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/2609/Rcds cm services must keep and notification reporting guidance COVID-19 \(100320\).pdf](https://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/2609/Rcds%20cm%20services%20must%20keep%20and%20notification%20reporting%20guidance%20COVID-19%20(100320).pdf)

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 2 - weak

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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