

Sarah Helen Fleming Childcare Child Minding

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)
Inspection completed on: 8 December 2021

Service provided by:
Fleming, Sarah Helen Fleming, Sarah
Helen

Service provider number:
SP2015987261

Care service number:
CS2015340125

Introduction

Sarah Helen Fleming Childcare registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 December 2015.

The childminding service is located in Lochgelly, Fife. The service is situated close to local amenities including parks, the local nursery and primary school. The children have access to the living room, dining room, kitchen, and toilet facilities. There is a large, enclosed back garden area suitable for outdoor play.

The service is provided by Sarah Helen Fleming (referred to as 'the childminder' in this report) and 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 the childminder's own family.

The aims and objectives for the service include ensuring a safe, secure, and welcoming environment for both children and parents, providing a range of interesting and stimulating activities appropriate to each child's age and ability and to encourage good behaviour through praise and guidance.

A full statement of aims and objectives is available from the service on request.

What we did during our inspection

We carried out an announced inspection at short notice on Wednesday 8 December 2021 between 14:00 and 16:00. Feedback was given to the childminder that evening by telephone call. The inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

During this inspection, we spoke with the childminder, children and three parents. We also looked at a sample of relevant documents, this included policies, risk assessments and information recorded about children. We observed the environment in which children were cared for.

As part of this inspection, we took into consideration Key Question 5 - Operating an early learning and childcare setting (including out of school care and childminders) during Covid-19 with a specific focus on Quality indicator 5.2: Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff. We will report on the overall performance of this indicator under Quality of care and support.

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

We spoke with four school aged children; we saw that they were relaxed and confident in the childminder's care. Children were also keen to spend time with us, proudly showing us their drawings and chatting about what they liked to play with in the childminder's home.

We spoke with three parents and each family confirmed they were happy with the service they received, especially the home from home style offered to their children. Children also talked positively about their time at the service and how much they loved snack.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection.

What the service did well

The childminder had developed warm and caring relationships with children. Children were given space and time to relax and unwind after a busy day at school. The childminder understood the value of this to support children's emotional wellbeing. Children stayed active and healthy by walking from school to the service and had developed a good understanding of road safety.

What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to identify their individual training needs. To further support the childminder in providing high quality experiences, the childminder needs to access relevant training and personal reading of best practice guidance. This will enhance the childminder's knowledge, skills and practice in promoting positive outcomes for children.

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

We evaluated this quality theme as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Children benefited from a warm, kind, and compassionate childminding experience that helped them to feel secure, respected and loved. The childminder took time to greet and listen to each child when collecting them from school. These nurturing interactions built children's confidence and made them feel valued as individuals.

The childminder knew the children well and discussed their individual needs, personalities, and interests and how they supported the children as individuals. Personal plans had recently been updated. The childminder

used these to ensure children's current needs were being met. Families told us they felt included in their child's care. This approach ensured families' preferences were respected and valued.

Children were supported by the childminder to keep themselves safe through discussions about road safety when they were walking to and from school. This daily walk encouraged children to be responsible, active, healthy, and safe.

The childminder communicated daily with parents to share and gather information about the children. This ensured they provided the right care and support for all children. Parents received detailed verbal feedback which helped them understand what children experienced in the service.

Speaking with the childminder, we were confident that they understood their role in protecting children. They were aware of signs of abuse and knew what action they needed to take if they had any concerns, keeping children safe from harm. Additionally, accurate systems were in place for recording accidents, incidents, and medication, this kept children safe and healthy.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection prevention and control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and families. For example, effective handwashing procedures were embedded and all play spaces were well ventilated. The childminder's home was clean and tidy with enhanced cleaning measures in place to minimise the potential spread of infection.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The play space used by children was clean, well-organised, and welcoming. The childminder had considered the layout of environment and had made good use of the space available to support children's wellbeing. For example, there were quiet and comfortable spaces where children could relax and rest, with larger spaces where children could play together. The childminder had implemented Scottish Government guidance within the service and mitigations were in place to prevent the spread of infection.

Children played in a well-maintained environment that promoted their safety and wellbeing. For example, risk assessments had been developed and measures were put in place to reduce potential hazards. This contributed to children remaining safe and protected from harm.

Children enjoyed drawing and were able to access a variety of materials. This supported their creativity and their individual choices.

The childminder made good use of the enclosed garden area and children were encouraged to access the garden freely, when they chose to. As a result, children benefited from lots of fresh air and exercise, supporting their physical and emotional wellbeing.

Although children had access to a wide range of resources, we suggested implementing the use of loose parts during play. These are natural materials that do not have a specific function or goal. They can enhance creative thinking, problem solving skills and new learning. The Loose Parts Play Toolkit can be found at www.playscotland.org The use of this guidance will support the childminder to provide more opportunities for the children to explore sensory resources, problem solve, and be creative.

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 cared for most of the minded children for several years and knew the children and parents very well. As a result, they felt comfortable in the childminder's care and parents felt reassured by the positive trusting relationships with the childminder.

Daily verbal communication with parents kept them informed about their child's experiences and progress. Parents confirmed this was the favoured method of communication. Parents felt valued and, as a result, they felt confident to speak with the childminder should they have any concerns or required support.

The childminder recognised the need to include the views of children and parents when evaluating and making improvements to the service. We asked the childminder to consider a wider variety of methods to gather this feedback. This would encourage children and parents to feel included and valued in the life of the service

The childminder had developed relevant policies that supported the running of the service. These were shared with parents so that they knew what to expect from the service. Policies should be regularly reviewed to ensure they reflect current guidance and best practice.

The childminder had kept up to date with best practice and legislation through communications they received from the Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA). To support the childminder further with this, we have signposted them to a range of resources available on the Care Inspectorate Hub. www.hub.careinspectorate.com

The childminder had identified some training needs and had begun with some personal reading. We suggested that a record of training be kept to evidence what training and reading had been done. This record should show how the childminder has used this new knowledge to improve the service. The childminder was receptive to our suggestions on how to improve their service and was keen to start developing these to further support the children and families in their care.

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

We recommend the childminder familiarise herself with Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC), national wellbeing indicators and Building the Ambition. The childminder should begin to use these best practice documents to help her maintain good outcomes for the children in her care.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state "I have a right to experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice." (HSCS 4.11)

This recommendation was made on 28 March 2019.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder has taken positive steps to familiarise themselves with the documents and had undertaken some personal reading in relation to best practice documents. Throughout the pandemic, they have kept up to date with changes to government guidance and implemented this into the daily routine. The childminder should continue to develop this to maintain high standards for the children in their care.

Recommendation 2

We recommend that the childminder review and update the policies and procedures of her service and ensure that they reflect best practice guidance and any changes to legislation.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state "I have a right to experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice." (HSCS 4.11)

This recommendation was made on 28 March 2019.

Action taken on previous recommendation

All relevant policies in place and we have suggested that annual reviews should be dated to show the documents are working documents subject to regular reviews. All policies are shared with new parents as part of their information pack and any updated policies are given to all families to promote a shared understanding.

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	
20 Dec 2018	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed 3 - Adequate
18 Oct 2017	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed 3 - Adequate
31 Oct 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	3 - Adequate 4 - Good Not assessed 3 - Adequate

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.