

Melanie McBride Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 22 March 2022

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2018990001

Care service number:
CS2018367978

Introduction

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 21 August 2018.

Melanie McBride provides a childminding service from her family home in the village of Dunlop, East Ayrshire.

She is registered to care for a maximum of six children under the age of 16 years, 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.

Other conditions of registration.

Overnight service will not be provided. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.

A full statement of aims is available from the service.

What we did during our inspection

We carried out an unannounced inspection of the childminding service on Tuesday 22 March 2022. Feedback was given on the same day. The inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

During the inspection we gathered evidence from a number of sources, including the following:

We spoke with:

- children present,
- the childminder.

We observed and viewed:

- the environment,
- the childminder's practice and interactions with the children and families,
- children playing.

We looked at the following evidence:

- children's records,
- policies and procedures,
- registration certificate and public liability insurance certificate.

Views of people using the service

We met and chatted with two children who were present during our visit. Both were noted as being happy and relaxed in the environment. They were observed as being comfortable in the childminder's company and her home setting. They knew what toys and resources were available to them and requested these throughout our visit, they were however too young to offer verbal comments on aspects of the service.

We invited parents to contact us to give us their views about the service provided. Three parents took up this offer and their feedback validated our observations detailed in this report. Parents were very happy with the service provided. Additional comments are contained in the body of the report.

Self assessment

The childminder had not been asked to submit a self-assessment prior to the inspection taking place.

What the service did well

The childminder had created an environment that was homely and welcoming. We observed her interaction with the children present and found that she was friendly and caring, she had built strong relationships with the families she worked with.

What the service could do better

The childminder should develop her approaches to accessing current best practice information and training to support the ongoing provision and development of high quality 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

During our visit the childminder spoke warmly about all the children in her care, demonstrating a very good understanding of their needs, interests and stage of development. She spoke to the children present in a caring, sensitive way. She created a nurturing, supportive, child-centred environment.

The childminder had developed positive relationships with the families using her service. She described how she worked with parents to meet the children's needs, this included electronic messages through WhatsApp and daily discussions. She gathered information about children and their needs as part of each child's personalised settling in process. This helped the childminder to get to know children well and plan care according to their individual stages of development and interests. Comments received from parents included: 'Very positive. I hear through spoken communication at the end of the day how my chid has got on and I get a weekly email telling me what they have been doing, what she's eaten, how much she's slept and how many nappies needed changed. I also get a weekly collection of photos and videos from the week which is always lovely to see'.

The childminder had introduced a system where she focussed on the SHANARRI, (safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible included) wellbeing indicators. These indicators are set out within the Scottish Government's initiative 'Getting It Right for Every Child' (GIRFEC), and are targets which providers strive to implement for every child. Each child's personal plan was based on and the indicators with next steps in learning identified and followed through.

Healthy lifestyles were encouraged within the service. The children had opportunities to access fresh air and active play daily, for example, playing in the garden and running around in parks. The childminder provided snacks including fresh fruit and vegetables for the children, ensuring they had a healthy diet. Children's allergies and intolerances were noted and catered for. The childminder was registered as a food business with the local authority environmental health department and followed their guidance and hygiene procedures to ensure safe food preparation.

Children were safe and protected as a result of the childminder's good understanding of what to do if they had s about a child's health, safety or wellbeing. The childminder had attended child protection training and her child protection policy was in keeping with national guidelines.

The childminder was observed talking to the children about their responsibility in keeping themselves safe, for example, when using water in activities or handling larger toys/resources. The childminder also confirmed that she ensured children were aware of keeping themselves healthy by washing their hands at appropriate times, for example, before snacks. She also confirmed she wore Personal Protective Equipment when dealing with bodily fluids.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminders home was clean, tidy and well-organised at the time of inspection. There was a warm, welcoming atmosphere. The childminder assessed the indoor and outdoor environment to make sure it was safe place for children to play. The childminder described a regular cleaning routine within her home. Toys we looked at were clean and in a good state of repair. This again helped keep children safe and minimised the risk of infection. The children washed their hands appropriately before eating and after toileting. These measures promoted the prevention and control of infection. The childminder confirmed that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was used when dealing with any body fluids for example changing a child's nappy.

The childminder was aware of her responsibilities to make sure the environment was safe. We observed areas of the childminder's home that children accessed as safe and secure and there were measures in place to ensure children's safety. She took daily checks before children access the service. The childminder had written risk assessments for her premises and specific activities to identify any hazards and action she needs to take to keep children safe.

A number of policies, which had been reviewed since her last inspection were available and when implemented would ensure children were being cared for in a safe, clean and hygienic environment.

Children especially enjoyed playing outdoors, the back garden and dedicated playhouse were used as the main areas for children. The regular outdoors activities supported children's physical development and wellbeing. Children were very active throughout our visit, they were using buckets and other containers to fill, transport and pour water. They also used chalk to mark make on the outdoor chalk board.

The childminder was aware of the benefits of providing natural and open-ended materials so that children could create more interesting and exciting play. Since her last inspection she had developed her outside resources to include a good range of such materials. She told us this was an area she intended to develop even further.

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 childminder engaged well with the inspection process. She was open and responsive to our advice and suggestions throughout the inspection and took some steps to address the areas we identified that could be improved.

The childminder described her role in keeping children safe and protected. She knew about the signs to look for and was clear about who to contact if she had concerns about any child in her care. One parent told us: 'Our children love being with Melanie, they never fuss or moan about going and they often don't want to come home at the end of the day! We feel complete security and peace of mind with her looking after our children and cannot find any fault at all. Her service and communication is fabulous. We feel lucky that we

have her looking after our children when we work.'

The childminder had taken part in some training to maintain her professional knowledge including child protection. We suggested using online modules or the Care Inspectorate HUB as a method of keeping up to date with good practice articles and information.

We have included links to relevant documents which could support the childminder to further develop how she evaluates her service and plans for improvement. References:

- Your Childminding Journey available at www.childmindingjourney.scot
- My Childminding Experience available at www.hub.careinspectorate.com
- National Health and Social Care Standards - available at www.scot.gov.uk
- How good is our early learning and childcare - (self-evaluation document) - available at www.education.gov.scot

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 further develop the minded children's personal plans to ensure that they reflect the current legislation.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards 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)

This recommendation was made on 10 January 2020.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had made good progress to meet this recommendation. We sampled childrens personal plans and found these to reflect current legislation.

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
4 Dec 2019	Unannounced	Care and support
		4 - Good
		Environment
		4 - Good
		Staffing
		Not assessed
		Management and leadership
		3 - Adequate

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