

Carole's Kiddies Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 26 May 2022

Service provided by:
Carole McLachlan

Service provider number:
SP2015987482

Care service number:
CS2015342008

Introduction

The Care Inspectorate registered the service on 12 January 2016.

Carole McLachlan provides a childminding service from their home in the Bargarran area of Erskine in Renfrewshire. The service has access to various amenities such as the library, shops, schools, nurseries and parks.

The areas used in providing a service are the living room, kitchen and upstairs toilet. The children also access a fully enclosed garden to the rear of the house to further extend their play and learning experiences.

The service is registered to care for six children under the age of 16, of whom no more than three will be under primary school age, and no more than one will be under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

What we did during our inspection

We carried out an unannounced inspection of the childminding service on 19 May 2022. We further reviewed evidence between 20 and 25 May 2022 by email and using 'Teams' technology. We gave feedback on 26 May 2022. An inspector from the Care Inspectorate carried out the inspection.

To prepare for the inspection, we reviewed information about the service. It included previous inspection findings, registration and complaints information, and intelligence gathered through the inspection year.

To inform our evaluations we:

- Spoke with four children using the service and their family members
- Spoke with the childminder
- Observed practice
- Reviewed documents.

Views of people using the service

During the visit, we observed happy, settled, and secure children in the childminder home.

Children told us they like playing with the balls, scooters, hula hoops, and tents. Dragon bouncy, space hoppers, in the garden and 'Handy Manny'. In addition, the childminder told us that one child likes to build things, and another likes cars and anything with wheels. Most toys available on inspection reflected children's interests.

We received feedback from four parents through an online survey and spoke to two parents in person during the inspection visit. The parents told us their children had fun and enjoyed attending. In addition, the parents said that Carole was another much appreciated and loved caregiver to their child, and the children have a great relationship with Carole and her family.

Self assessment

We did not ask the childminder for a current self assessment before the inspection. However, we looked at the service's quality assurance systems as part of the inspection, which we commented on under management and leadership quality.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a warm, welcoming, homely environment and ensured children and families were at the centre of the service. As a result, they developed open, honest, and trusting relationships with children and families, allowing individual responsive care and support.

What the service could do better

As part of their commitment to continuing professional development, the childminder spoke about developing their self-evaluation procedures further using the Care Inspectorate's quality framework tool. It will help them continually evaluate the childminding facilities and children's play, learning, and progression.

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	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care and support provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children. Therefore, we evaluated this theme as very good.

Children benefitted from the childminder's calm, nurturing and patient approach. 'Makaton' was used when interacting with most children, which was in addition to other resources the childminder has to support speech and language development in the service. It was clear the childminder had formed positive relationships and enjoyed caring for children.

There was a strong emphasis on supporting children's emotional wellbeing. The childminder ensured children were individually cared for, sharing their time well to include and involve all children during the inspection visit. The childminder listened carefully and chatted with children about their day at nursery and school, supporting them to feel valued and respected. Parent views confirmed this; they thought the childminder was incredibly attentive and adaptable, catering to their child's needs and feelings at all times.

The childminder knew the children in their care very well and could confidently discuss children's personalities and individual routines.

Care plans were in place for children and were updated regularly with parents, which supported the childminder in meeting children's health, safety and welfare needs, human rights and choices. Parents agreed that their children's care plans were reviewed and discussed with them, including target setting and reviewing of targets.

Parents told us that the childminder kept them updated on their child's day through WhatsApp messaging and an app. The childminder shared the online learning journals with children and parents, detailing children's play, learning and development. The childminder told us that these were at an early stage. We discussed ways the childminder could develop the plans. For example, having children and their parent's comments and learning from home, further supporting partnership working and children's next steps in play and learning.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We made an evaluation of good for this quality theme as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on children's experiences.

The childminder made good use of the space available in their home to enable children to move about independently. Children selected toys available in the living room and enclosed rear garden. The childminder told us that she consults with children when selecting and rotating toys. Children and their parents confirmed that the rotation of toys happened every couple of days, giving children a variety.

We discussed the benefits of natural and loose parts play materials to support high-quality play and learning experiences. That offers creativity and supports children's imagination, critical thinking skills, and open-ended questioning. The childminder told us they had many resources for this; however, they were unavailable to children during the inspection.

The childminder and parents provided lunch and snacks for their children. The children ate their snacks at the kitchen table, which was a calm, friendly and sociable experience. Children enjoyed sitting with their friends and chatted comfortably to the childminder and visiting inspector.

The childminder recognised the value of children playing and learning outdoors. The childminder discussed and shared photographic evidence of children spending time in a newly refurbished play park, which the childminder was part of developing through local funding. In addition, the younger children attended the Moo Music sessions supporting their language and creativity development.

Children were also part of Forest Friends groups, where they spent a great deal of time outdoors, listening to stories read by an adult and risk-benefit activities. The childminder used these opportunities to support children to learn about keeping safe.

Records of accidents and incidents were recorded and shared with the child's parent. In addition, we discussed having an audit to identify common or reoccurring concerns, including actions to the learning environments, resources and individual children, to identify any common patterns and the appropriate action needed. The childminder implemented an audit before we wrote the report.

We were satisfied that the service had some appropriate infection control procedures to support a safe environment for children, including hands-free electric soap dispensers. However, we did not see regular hand hygiene routines by the children or childminder. We also had some concerns concerning the bin area and nappy changing routine to support children's health and safety and the risk of spreading infection. However, following the inspection visit, the childminder evidenced some improvements made in this area.

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

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care and support provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children. Therefore, we evaluated this theme as very good.

The childminder managed the service well. Children were safe and protected because the childminder has good awareness of child protection and safe administration of medication, supporting children's health, welfare and safety.

The childminder was committed to their learning and development and had a robust Continuous Personal Learning (CPD) record supporting children in their care. In addition, since the last inspection, the childminder had completed an SCQF Level 7 award in Social Services (Children and Young People). To support the childminder further, we discussed how an evaluation of their learning progression would help them continue providing good outcomes for children in their care.

The childminder provided parents with feedback regularly, which contributed to the development of the service. For example, they spoke about updating the service values and aims with parents and their children and introducing questionnaires suitable to children's age and stage of development. As a result, this showed that children and their families were valued and respected in the service.

The childminder worked in partnership with the local authority and used recognised quality assurance tools well. These helped the childminder better understand how effectively the service was operating and identify areas for improvement to ensure they continued providing a high-quality service for children and families.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very 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

Date	Type	Gradings	
23 Feb 2017	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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