

Traynor, Catherine Child Minding

Inverness

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)
Inspection completed on: 7 February 2017

Service provided by:
Traynor, Catherine

Service provider number:
SP2003907636

Care service number:
CS2003013987

About the service

The childminder lives in a detached house with her family on the outskirts of Inverness but close to the local primary school. The childminder was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011 and can care for up to six children at any one time.

The aims of the childminder are:

"To provide a quality service in a safe, secure and caring family environment where each child is treated with respect. Each child's needs will be met on an individual basis so they will feel happy to play and learn at their own pace."

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. Getting it right for every child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

The unannounced inspection took place on the 7 February 2017 between the hours of 3:00 pm and 4:45 pm. Four children were present at this inspection.

During the inspection we spoke with the childminder and any parents that were picking up or dropping off their children.

We inspected a sample of the following documentation:

- Contracts
- Children's records
- All about me documents
- Personal plans

What people told us

The four boys present were picked up from school by the childminder and when at the service spent the majority of their time outdoors in the garden.

Three of the boys had attended for a number of years while the fourth child had started the service at the end of last year.

All of the children were very relaxed in the presence of the childminder and had the confidence to explore the childminders garden without fear.

The children confirmed that they were happy at the childminders and looked forward to coming. They enjoyed playing outside and had made suggestions (which were granted) on the layout of the garden.

It was clear that a close relationship had been formed between the children and the childminder as there was lots of chatter, laughter and fun during the observed session.

We spoke to two parents during this inspection when they arrived to pick up their children. Both parents were very happy with the level of service provided and were of the opinion that their children were safe and secure when attending the session. One parent had been placing her children for a number of years at the service and was pleased with the way in which the service was delivered. She found the childminder to be reliable, approachable and she had been asked to comment on how the service was delivered on a regular basis. Her children enjoyed attending and the activities and games that were delivered were suitable for the children attending.

The parent had raised an issue with the childminder last year and was very happy with the outcome and the manner in which this was dealt with.

Parent number two was very happy with the quality of service and again her child enjoyed attending. She was pleased with the games and activities that were on offer found the childminder reliable and again found her easy to approach and discuss any matters. They both received good information on what was happening within the service and were provided with good feedback on their child's day when picking up the children.

Returned Care Standard Questionnaires contained the following comments:

"Cathy is a wonderful childminder who I would be lost without. My boys have been with her for over six years and love her. I have never had reason to complain about anything and when I have had to discuss issues with her she always put the care of the boys first."

"I feel I would have no problem speaking directly to Cathy as she is very approachable, but I couldn't imagine I would ever have that problem."

Self assessment

A comprehensive self assessment was submitted when requested.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

We found that the childminder had invited parents to her home to view the service and meet with her family before placing children.

Policies and procedures were provided for parents and when registering their children for care and informative 'all about me document' contained very good information on the needs and abilities of the child.

Contracts were signed and parents were provided with information on how the service was delivered.

On the day of inspection children were picked up from their primary school and walked to the childminder's home. Children were observed chatting to the childminder on the way.

The views of children were included when considering how the service was delivered and on the day of the inspection, children had chosen to play outside for most of the day and also identifying specific board games when inside.

The childminder had a close and warm relationship with the boys who she knew very well. Care was tailored to each individual child, support was provided when requested and children were encouraged to make choices, take responsibility for their actions and consider each other when at the childminder's home.

At times the boys were boisterous in their play and gentle reminders by the childminder to consider each other along with reinforcement of house rules encouraged the boys to temper their own actions.

The garden area was attractive to the children as it encouraged physical challenges, provided a setting for imaginary play and could be rearranged to provide different play platforms. Outdoor and physical play was provided on a daily basis and this suited and met the needs of children attending.

The childminders home was clean, hygienic and well maintained both inside and out.

There was ample play equipment, games and toys which children could access independently. Board games were a particular favourite of the children and the games on offer were age appropriate.

At snack time children were able to sit at the dining table within the kitchen where they were provided with suitable food and drink. This was very much a social occasion and children were freely talking about their school day.

The childminder had attended training on a regular basis which included first aid and child protection and was also in the process of attaining a Bachelor of Arts in childhood practice qualification.

What the service could do better

The childminder had development folders in place which contained good information. These folders were in the development stage and will improve as experience is gained and the childminder becomes more confident in identifying outcomes that reflect the child's learning and development.

Folders should be kept simple and give an overview of how the child is developing both physically and mentally. When a child attends multiple centres (nursery and childminders) which both maintain development folders, consideration should be given as to how each folder compliments each other and come to the same conclusion. Including a self-portrait and other art work would add to these folders.

All records and contracts relating to children attending should be reviewed and updated every six months.

The childminder had created an attractive outside area for children attending. The introduction of a mud kitchen was very much appreciated by the children who spent a lot of time with this activity. We discussed how the childminder wanted to further develop the garden area and how children would be included in this process. Introducing a mind-map (participation tool) to this group of children may assist them in identifying and

recording their thoughts and views.

When retaining electronic records and photographs, all services must ensure that they are licensed with the appropriate authority as directed by the data protection.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
11 Mar 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
15 Nov 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
3 Dec 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	6 - Excellent

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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