

# Stewart, Yvonne

## Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 16 May 2017

**Service provided by:**

**Service provider number:**

SP2006957065

**Care service number:**

CS2006116421

## The service

### Introduction

Yvonne Stewart, referred to as the childminder in this report, is registered with the Care Inspectorate to care for a maximum of seven children at any one time under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than six shall be under 12, 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 the children of the childminder's family.

The service is provided from the family home in the village of Ormiston in East Lothian. The home is a lower villa flat. Children use the kitchen, living room and bathroom.

Aims and objectives for the service have been developed and are regularly reviewed. Aims included:

'Encourage the social, physical, creative and intellectual development of children.

Develop friendship and trust with children in my care.

Actively continue to assess, develop and improve the service provided.'

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.

### What we did during our inspection

The inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate. We made an unannounced visit to the childminder on 16 May 2017.

As part of the inspection process we asked the childminder to issue four care standard questionnaires to parents on our behalf. Four of these were returned.

During the inspection we gathered information from a range of sources including talking to the childminder, talking to children looking at key information kept to ensure that children's care needs were met.

We walked round the home with the childminder and assessed the suitability of the environment and equipment used for childminding.

### Views of people using the service

There were three minded children present during our visit. Children were very relaxed in the care of the childminder and were provided with a range of fun activities chosen by children.

We received four completed care standard questionnaires from parents using the service. All strongly agreed that they were happy with the standard of care provided by the childminder. There were many comments about the professionalism of the childminder, flexibility and the level of support offered to children and parents.

All parents commented that their children really enjoyed going to the childminders home and that the range of activities was extensive to include a very high proportion of outdoor activities for all age groups.

## Self assessment

The self assessment for the inspection was completed fully. The childminder had clearly identified how she ensured positive outcomes for children. Areas of strengths were identified including the methods she used to communicate with parents and gain the views of children. The childminder had identified some areas where she wished to develop her practice through information from good practice documents.

## What the service did well

The childminder provided an excellent service which was continually assessed to ensure that current childcare practice was taken into account.

The childminder had an in depth understanding of child development and used this to gather appropriate information to meet care and supports needs for each individual child.

## What the service could do better

The childminder provided evidence that she continually assessed her service to ensure that improvements were made. At this inspection we spoke to the childminder about duplicate paperwork and how to reduce some of this.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

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

## Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder had further developed the excellent service provided to gather and actively use information which enabled her to meet children's care and support needs. The childminder used a comprehensive yet manageable range of written information collected at the start of placement.

Information was updated regularly to ensure it continued to provide an accurate picture of each individual child. In addition to written information the childminder spoke to parents daily and reviewed contracts regularly to make sure that the service still met family care needs.

The principles of GIRFEC and the wellbeing indicators of SHANARRI were explained clearly to parents. Each child had a SHANARRI plan which was personal to the individual. The plan was regularly updated to outline the opportunities provided for positive wellbeing outcomes to be achieved.

Evidence that outcomes were being met was linked to each child's 'book' where records of activities, development and achievement were recorded. This method of recording gave an excellent overview of each child and their development, likes and interests. We spoke to the childminder about the amount of written information which was duplicated for each child and agreed that some of this could be condensed.

The relationship between children and the childminder was very warm and nurturing. Through the knowledge she had of each child she was able to describe their different personalities and what actions she took to support them as they grew. She brought an element of fun to her role as a childminder which helped children feel safe and happy.

Health and wellbeing was actively promoted. Significant opportunities for outdoor play and learning activities such as woodland walks, trips to the beach and some attendance at local groups to provide a social experience for children were undertaken. Healthy snacks and regular baking activities helped children to understand the principles of healthy eating.

To support elements of wellbeing the childminder had attended courses on developing self-esteem, promoting and valuing diversity and behaviour management. The childminder was calm and respectful towards children and their individual choices whilst providing consistent, realistic boundaries for behaviour which helped children to understand what was expected of them and increase their self-esteem.

The childminder had developed a child protection procedure in line with current local guidance. The procedure was enhanced by additional training the childminder had undertaken in child protection and safeguarding. From her previous work role the childminder had considerable experience in this area which had helped her understanding of Getting it Right for Every Child enabling her to give parents easy to understand information on this legislation.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 6 - excellent

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The home used for childminding was on one level and provided spacious, bright, tidy and clean accommodation for children to use. Children used the comfortable living room for play. The kitchen was used for meals, snacks and a wide range of baking, art and craft activities. Children could access the bathroom independently.

There were policies and procedures in place to ensure that the safety and cleanliness of the environment was maintained. These procedures were shared with parents and were reviewed regularly to ensure that they met current guidance. The childminder was aware of good practice with regard to infection control and the administration of medication which contributed to children's safety and wellbeing.

We talked to the childminder about the assessment of risks both within the home and on outings and trips. The childminder talked to children about risks, especially on outings, and encouraged children to begin to assess risk for themselves. This encouraged them to take some responsibility for their own safety to promoted responsibility and independence.

The childminder did not provide meals but promoted healthy eating through the range of snacks and drinks provided. Children ate at the kitchen table to promote a social eating experience.

Children had access to a range of exciting play resources both indoors and outdoors. On the day of our visit children were playing with modelling sand which had been requested by a child. They also had opportunities for painting and played well together in the tent, which was set up in the living room. Children told us they had 'lots to do'.

The childminder had kept a range of photos of activities and adventures children had taken part in. Most of these had a description of the activity and a short learning outcome which gave parents a good overview of what children gained from the experiences provided by the childminder.

The childminder had a small back garden which was not used as to access it children had to cross the driveway of a next door property. Instead of garden play children used the local parks and rural areas close to the home daily. Children also walked to and from school and nursery and went on longer trips and outings to the beach and local woods to promote physical activity.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 6 - excellent

## Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

## Quality of management and leadership

## Findings from the inspection

The childminder had very clear objectives for her service and what she was trying to achieve for the children and families that used her service she had shared these objectives with parents.

She did this by assessing her service regularly through questionnaires and speaking to parents and children. All correspondence with parents reminded them that they could come to her to make suggestions, raise questions or give ideas.

Professional development was a priority for the childminder. She had undertaken a comprehensive range of training since our last inspection. This included statutory training but also training on child led planning, promoting self-esteem, GIRFEC and valuing diversity.

There was evidence of her applying the knowledge she gained from courses to her practice. The level of additional reading and training undertaken helped the childminder keep abreast of current childcare developments and work towards improved outcomes for children in her care.

The childminder was familiar with current good practice documents and was a moderator for a childminding website which promoted good childminding practice and shared good practice information for other childminders to use.

Through discussion the childminder evidenced that she kept up with and understood current childcare issues in the wider childcare context. She was able to provide information for parents on the proposed expansion of early learning and childcare and the new national care standards.

The childminder was very organised in planning ahead for children's activities and recording necessary information. Information needed to meet statutory requirements such as public liability insurance, regular maintenance of heating systems and car insurance were in place.

The childminder fulfilled her statutory responsibilities by displaying her registration certificate, having a complaints procedure and having public liability insurance. She completed documentation for the Care Inspectorate fully to make sure that we had the widest overview of her service.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 6 – excellent

## 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](http://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	
19 Apr 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
6 Apr 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	Not assessed



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