

Harris, Christine

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 22 June 2017

Service provided by:
Harris, Mrs Christine

Service provider number:
SP2003906898

Care service number:
CS2003013179

The service

Introduction

Christine Harris (referred to as the childminder throughout this report) is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time 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 will be under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The childminder provides this service from her home in Colinton, Edinburgh. The areas of the home used for childminding are the living room, playroom, kitchen, bathroom and garden.

The aims of the service are to:

'Provide a safe and welcoming environment

- Provide for the health, safety and happiness of the children in my care.

Treat each child as an individual

- Children will be treated equally and fairly
- Activities provided will be varied and suit the developmental stage of the children.

Provide a well-managed service

- Keep within the requirements of my registration certificate
- Records will be kept in accordance with legislation
- Operate in an environment of mutual respect and trust
- Maintain good communication with parents and respect their families

Commitment

- Continue to make a commitment to childminding and the children in my care
- Be responsible for my own health and personal development by keeping up to date with current practice and child care legislation'.

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.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection visit carried out on Thursday 22 June 2017.

At this inspection we gathered evidence from various sources including:

- Discussion with the childminder
- Looking at areas of the home used for childminding
- Reading the comments in the three questionnaire that we received from parents
- Reading children's records
- Interacting with the one minded child present during the inspection
- Reading policies.

Views of people using the service

The child we met at the inspection was content, relaxed in happy in the childminder's care. With confidence they moved around the house, making requests for different toys and approaching the childminder for cuddles.

Parents were complimentary of the service they and their child received. They told us,

'Christine is very caring and all my children adore her. We have used her services for nearly 10 years and I could not be happier. My children are well cared for'.

'I am extremely happy with this service. Christine completely get my child and can almost read what he's thinking. My son talks very highly of her and I am confident leaving her in charge of him. She runs the service exactly to the needs of her parents. I was initially wary of using a childminder, however after using Christine's services I would never go anywhere else. I cannot speak highly enough of her'.

'I am so happy with Christine. My child loves being there so much so that my child asked if she could go every morning too! Christine is very loving and caring and my child feels very at home there. I always go into Christine's home when I collect my daughter so that I can hear about what had happened that day. I am always welcomed in and it always feels very homely. I couldn't be happier with the service'.

Self assessment

We received a fully completed self assessment from the childminder before the inspection took place.

What the service did well

The childminder offers exceptionally kind and thoughtful care, which has resulted in children forming strong attachments with her. She provides a warm and secure environment where children can feel safe to explore and develop a strong sense of belonging. The childminder has an in-depth knowledge of each child and values them as unique individuals which results in her service being one where each child is nurtured, respected and included.

What the service could do better

In order to maintain her grades the childminder should continue to look for ways develop her existing positive practice.

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	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder valued the partnership she had established with parents and she maintained very good lines of communication in order to promote the best outcomes for children. Feedback in our questionnaires confirmed parents were appreciative of the relationship they had formed with the childminder. A parent told us 'Christine is always attentive to my instructions each day and always gives me a brief summary at handover at the end of each day'.

The child we met was content in the childminder's home where they had clearly established warm relationships with the childminder and each other. The childminder understood the importance of nurturing children and valuing them as individuals with their own unique personality, individual needs and aspirations. Children were involved in the planning of activities. This meant they participated in a very wide range of activities and experiences that was meaningful to them and nurtured their creativity and ensured their developmental needs were consistently met. This was further confirmed by a parent who told us, 'Christine asks about what my child is doing at home and what she might like to do when in Christine's care. Christine always upholds the rules I have for my child at home such as limited screen time and there is a focus on arts and craft activities'.

Children were able to choose fruit from the fruit bowl throughout the day and enjoyed nutritious meals and snacks which were devised in consultation with them and their parents to take account of likes, dislikes and dietary needs. Drinking water was freely available to ensure that children remained hydrated throughout the day. All three parents confirmed to us that the childminder met their child's preferences and needs and that food was nutritious and balanced. Children's health was enhanced as they enjoyed outside play and the childminder clearly recognised the importance of fresh air and physical outdoor activities.

Since the last inspection, the childminder had developed a highly effective observation and review system which identified children's individual stage of development. Children's personal plans were written under the eight indicators in SHANARRI and demonstrated how the childminder intended to support children to reach their potential. This showed her knowledge of each child's personality, traits and needs as well as an understanding of her responsibility to meet these needs. Parents comments left us in no doubt that they were completely satisfied with the care their child received from the childminder. We have suggested that the childminder now routinely invites parents to view their child's records and help plan the next steps for their child's development.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Children were thriving in the warm, welcoming and homely environment which was organised well to enable them to make choices and develop their independence. The playroom had range of easily accessible and stimulating resources which were based on the children's interests and needs. This meant children developed their own learning styles. The childminder's home was very clean and secure and the childminder carried out daily visual risk assessments so that children were safe. All three parents confirmed they felt confident of the suitability and safety of the childminder's home.

Within a safe and secure environment children learned to keep themselves safe and how to identify potential hazards indoors and outdoors. They learned the concept of road safety through conversations instigated by the childminder when walking from school.

The childminder followed procedures to minimise spread of infection and to ensure that the children were protected from illness. She has attended first aid training, therefore, she was aware of how to care for children in the event of an accident.

The childminder had effective procedures in place for the administration of medicine and for the recording of accidents and incidents. Children were further protected because the childminder had an appropriate understanding about safeguarding procedures to ensure that children were monitored and kept safe. Records relating to children's individual health and safety were maintained.

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 was organised, motivated and enthusiastic in her work. Her experience, commitment, reflective nature and the ability to be self-critical meant she had capacity for continuous improvement. She demonstrated a very good knowledge of childcare and child development and kept up to date with best practice in child care through a wide variety of ways such as subscription to online resources, reading the Care Inspectorate Care News and obtaining information sent through the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA). Whilst highly informative, we spoke to the childminder about reviewing the level of written information she had on the children as the forms she used had the potential for repetition.

The childminder showed a commitment to and an understanding of the benefits of training courses. She had planned to complete child protection training in the near future. She carried out research on a variety of subjects such as childhood illnesses and conditions. All of this showed a dedication to her own learning and meeting the needs of the children.

Since the last inspection, the childminder had updated her policies which better reflects her professional approach. These were shared with parents so that they were informed about her practice. The childminder made it clear to parents that she was very keen to hear their ideas and feedback on she could improve her service. She used fun and inventive ways to gather children's views of the service and involved them in planning activities and outings. Our questionnaires indicated that parents were supportive of the service. They agreed that their childminder had involved them and their child in developing the service, for example asking for ideas and feedback. They also showed confidence in the childminder's approach should they ever feel the need to raise a concern.

Moving forward, the childminder should consider reviewing her aims and objective to ensure they are a true reflection of the work she carries out in her service.

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

Recommendation 1

It is recommended that Mrs Harris carries out and records six monthly reviews of children's needs and development. National Care Standard for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 6 – Support and Development.

This recommendation was made on 16 April 2013.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder now completed regular reviews on children's needs and development. This recommendation had been met.

Recommendation 2

It is recommended that Mrs Harris should now give consideration to witting policies to demonstrate her approach to:

- Infection control
- Steps that she takes to minimise risks in her home and garden (risk assessments)
- Administering medication
- Taking children on outings

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 2 – A Safe Environment.

This recommendation was made on 16 April 2013.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had carried out a review of all her policies. This recommendation had been met.

Recommendation 3

It is recommended that Mrs Harris develops a policy that will tell parents how she promoted positive behaviour and supported children who were displaying negative

behaviour. National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 7 - A caring environment.

This recommendation was made on 16 April 2013.

Action taken on previous recommendation

A new policy had been devised. This recommendation had been met.

Recommendation 4

Mrs Harris should develop a new form to record when she gives children medication. She should refer to the Care Inspectorate guidance on the 'the management of medication for daycare and childminding settings' to make sure it meets best practice. National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 3 - Health and Wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 16 April 2013.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Accurate medication records were now being kept. This recommendation had been met.

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
16 Apr 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership Not assessed
22 Apr 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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