

Country Kids Limited Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 18 January 2018

Service provided by:
Country Kids Limited

Service provider number:
SP2005944602

Care service number:
CS2010254581

The service

Introduction

Country Kids has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since January 2012. Current registration is to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. Overnight care is not provided.

Kaye Fenwick and Wendy Alexander are employed as assistants. When working with one assistant the care service shall not exceed a maximum of 12 children. Of whom no more than 6 are not yet attending primary school and whom no more than 2 are under 12 months. When working with two assistants the care service shall not exceed a maximum of 15 children, of whom no more than 6 are not yet attending primary school and whom no more than 2 are under 12 months.

The service is provided from the childminder's home in a rural area, near Ellon, Aberdeenshire. Children have the use of two playrooms, toilet facilities and a sleep room on the ground floor and a large garden. The parts of the premises not to be used are the childminder's lounge and the first floor.

The service shall operate between the hours of 7.00am and 7.00pm Monday to Friday and 8.30am to 1.30pm on Saturdays. The service may not operate on a Sunday.

The overall aim of the service was to provide:

A safe, secure and very happy environment, where children are given the opportunity to pursue their play activities using the vast range of equipment and resources which assist creative, imaginative, intellectual and social skills, and where we ensure that children receive the best of care whilst meeting their individual needs by always working in partnership with parents and carers.

Objectives to support this aim were:

- Equal opportunities for all
- diversity
- Inclusion
- An excellent range of resources and play equipment
- A stimulating environment such that each child reaches his/her individual developmental stages.
- An environment which encourages independence.

Our observations at the inspection were that the service was meeting these aims well.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection by two Early Learning and Childcare inspectors on the morning of 05 December 2017 and a second visit by one inspector on the afternoon of 18 January 2018. Feedback was given to the childminder during and at the end of the inspection.

During the inspection we observed the childminder and the two assistants working with the children and evaluated the quality of care, environment and management and leadership. We looked at relevant documents and records including children's records, care plans, and the childminder's quality assurance.

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 parents 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.

Views of people using the service

There were between 3 and 12 children present during the inspection visits. They all presented as very happy in the setting. Older children told us what they enjoyed doing at the childminder's:

'This is my digger and I am getting gravel from the quarry. It's hard work'.

'I like going outside; I like football'.

'I am going to make a Gruffalo Forest outside. We could get some branches, dig a little hole, put them in and they could be the trees'.

'We made pizza and we could choose the toppings that we liked'.

'I like doing pictures and posters and playing with my friends. We made scones and biscuits'. 'We are going to do sewing Debbie showed me some really cool ideas and she showed me the sewing machine and materials. I might make a reindeer with moving legs'.

Six parents returned completed questionnaires to us. Their responses strongly agreed they were happy with the quality of care their child received. We also spoke to four parents during the inspection. Comments included:

'Fantastic service, great staff, my kids love going'.

'Debbie encourages a good variety in activities; beyond the experiences/hobbies our child would get at home, i.e. yoga, gymnastics, baking, craft'.

'Highly recommend Debbie, Kaye and the team. They are all a very important part of our child's development'.

'The service provided is brilliant. My children are happy, confident and well mannered and I know a lot of that has come from Debbie and her team. I could not ask for a better childminder or setting for my children.... As well as being a great childminder she is fabulous support. I really cannot express enough the wonderful job that country kids do and I would be lost without her.'

'It is a lovely friendly environment. As a mother it makes me happy to be putting my child into a setting where we both feel comfortable with a safe environment'.

'Cannot commend them highly enough, they are amazing. The children do so much here and I know the children are well looked after'.

'The children are so loved and cared for. Debbie is always telling us about our child's progress, they notice every thing they do'.

Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self assessment from the childminder. The childminder identified what they thought they did well in gathering and reviewing information and gave examples of improvements to care plans; making use of the wellbeing indicators. The childminder told us how children and families were consulted and involved in the development of plans for improving the service.

What the service did well

The childminder and her assistants had created a warm and welcoming atmosphere for children and families. Children received well considered individualised care. They were encouraged to be responsible, make choices and were involved in making decisions and keeping themselves safe. The environment was spacious and well resourced indoors and out; providing children with a range of interesting experiences and activities. The service was well organised and managed to ensure children were safe and well supported. Parents were kept well informed and consulted about changes. Parents were highly satisfied with the service.

What the service could do better

We visited at Christmas time and found that displays of arts and crafts were more adult led than child led. We discussed encouraging children's creativity at all times.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	6 - Excellent
Quality of staffing	6 - Excellent
Quality of management and leadership	6 - Excellent

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The quality of care and support provided by Country Kids was excellent.

Children and families were warmly welcomed into the setting. Parents were highly complimentary about every aspect of their child's care and support by the childminder and her assistants. Parents were confident that any communication from them was taken into account and acted on to the benefit of their children. We found that, as a result; the childminder and her staff knew children very well and ensured that children's care and support was individualised and nurturing. Younger children slept in quiet and comfortable surroundings according to their individual routine. On awakening they were given warm cuddles and a refreshing drink.

We observed that the childminder and her staff were wonderfully attentive, responsive and caring in their interactions with children. They valued children's views and involved them in planning experiences on a daily basis using verbal interaction and picture cards. As a result children were confident in expressing their ideas.

Snack menus displayed for parents were healthy; being consistent with national guidance. Children enjoyed the healthy snacks and drinks offered and were able to participate in helping with preparation and develop independence. Older children made pizzas with their own choice of toppings.

Children's health benefitted from regular physical and energetic play in the extensive garden. We saw children, exploring nature, confidently acting out imaginative games and having great fun outdoors.

Children were being supported to achieve in a range of experiences which extended their learning and creativity.

Younger children imaginatively acted out familiar experiences in their 'quarry' outdoors. Children listened well to a story and were included using supporting 'props' from the 'talking box'. The childminder demonstrated excellent interaction skills that stirred excitement and suspense. The children joined in with familiar rhyming sentences supporting their literacy development. They revisited and explored some of their ideas about the story on a nature walk outdoors.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 – excellent

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The quality of the environment provided at Country Kids was excellent.

Children were provided with a warm, inviting environment. Personalisation in attractive displays in the entrance hall made children feel welcome and included. Most of the ground floor rooms in the childminder's home were set out as play rooms for the children. Furniture was child sized and storage was open and accessible; promoting children's independence and self help skills. Children could choose from a wide range of high quality toys, resources and equipment. Built in enclosed play areas were resourced flexibly for imaginative play according to children's interests and ideas.

Younger children had access to sensory materials, high quality play resources and enjoyed relevant activities such as baby yoga. Natural materials were used well; for example in small world play. The childminder had made attractive 'story stones' for children to use to make up pictorial stories. A sleep room provided cots for babies to sleep comfortably in quiet surroundings.

The extensive garden provided areas for different types of play; an enclosed area safe for younger children to play freely, a grassed area for games, and small wooded areas to explore. The childminder had made links with local community groups to build bespoke garden structures; including fencing, planting boxes, a mud kitchen, a quarry area; made for a child's interest and a fairy garden.

Children were kept safe by effective procedures. The childminder had attended training in infection prevention and control and used her learning well. Excellent attention was paid to health and hygiene resulting in the provision of new resources to resolve issues; for example a family toilet seat suitable for all ages of children and new cot mattresses and high chairs that meet safety standards.

Children were becoming responsible citizens carrying out checks in their designated roles as fire officers, and first aid box checker.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 - excellent

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

The quality of staffing at Country Kids was excellent.

The childminder employed her daughter and an assistant to help her with the registered number of children allowed. All worked very well as a team, contributing to the friendly welcoming atmosphere and making children feel cared for, valued and included. Children demonstrated fond attachments to the staff and all staff responded attentively and warmly.

The childminder and staff encouraged children to express their ideas and feelings. We discussed arts and crafts displayed being adult led and further promoting children's creativity. We shared the new Care Inspectorate publication Our Creative Journey available at: <http://hub.careinspectorate.com/improvement/our-creative-journey/>

Staff worked in partnership with parents, other settings and agencies to support children's individual needs. Parents comments, evaluations and thank you cards evidenced the strong relationships supporting effective communication. These partnerships supported children's health, well-being and positive development.

The childminder and staff had attended a range of training to help them support children's needs, protect children and keep them safe. As a result all could talk knowledgeably about their role, the impact of training and how they were constantly reviewing and developing their practices.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 - excellent

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The quality of management and leadership of the service was excellent.

The childminder made excellent use of self-reflection and development plans to ensure the effective provision of a high quality care service. These took full account of Building the Ambition, Getting it Right for Every Child, the wellbeing indicators and the rights of children to have their say.

Improvement plans had focussed on improving the children's experiences outdoors, meeting children's needs and child protection. Training had been undertaken and used to meet these plans. As a result the garden had been and was continuing to be developed to widen the experiences for children. The arts and craft area had been improved to make materials more accessible. This meant children had more independent opportunities for spontaneous creativity. All projects and topics undertaken within the setting were well thought out and documented; meeting a recommendation to develop and implement recording systems to support her good practice.

Parents were recognised as partners; they were kept well informed about the service through day to day chats and regular newsletters. They were consulted about the individual care of their children and asked to complete questionnaire's in evaluating the setting. We found that parent's feedback was very positive.

Children were able to influence the activities provided throughout the day; choosing from pictorial cards that were then displayed for their reference. Using the children's ideas and interests the childminder and her staff planned contexts for learning to support children's learning and development. Children were being inspired to read through a 'Book Worm Challenge', learning about food through Tesco's 'Eat Happy' activities and combining both by making a cook book. They were excited carrying through their suggestions for a 'science club', an 'exercise club' and a 'sewing club'.

The attention to self reflection and development meant the service was well placed to continue to improve.

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

Recommendation 1

The childminder should continue to develop and implement recording systems to support her good practice.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 14: Well-Managed Service

This recommendation was made on 7 February 2018.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had implemented and documented a comprehensive system of self reflection, review and improvement planning. In addition topics undertaken with children were documented in a child friendly manner. The recommendation was 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	
8 Nov 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
3 Apr 2013	Re-grade	Care and support	Not assessed
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	1 - Unsatisfactory
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
31 Jan 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	2 - Weak
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.