

Vinter, Elaine Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 7 March 2018

Service provided by:
Vinter, Elaine

Service provider number:
SP2003905997

Care service number:
CS2003012272

The service

Introduction

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information in relation to all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com.

Mrs Elaine Vinter, referred to as the childminder throughout this report, provides her childminding service from her detached home in a quiet residential area of South Queensferry. The areas of her home used for childminding purposes are the lounge/diner, downstairs toilet and supervised access to the kitchen. Children have access to a secure, fully enclosed garden at the rear of the property.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of eight children under sixteen years, of whom a maximum of six will be under twelve years, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under twelve months. These numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

Seven children are currently registered to use the service and they all attend on a part-time basis. One minded children was present during the inspection aged four years old.

This service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

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 the 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. GIRFEC 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 GIRFEC. 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 which took place on Wednesday 7 March 2018. We gave feedback to the childminder on the day of the inspection.

As part of the inspection, we took account of the completed annual return and self assessment forms that we asked the childminder to complete and submit to us.

We sent three Care Inspectorate care standards questionnaires to the childminder to distribute to parents. Parents returned two completed questionnaires before the inspection.

During this inspection process, we gathered evidence from various sources, including the following:

We looked at:

- the childminder's certificate of registration
- a sample of children's files
- the childminder's annual return
- a sample of the childminder's policies and procedures
- medication recording system
- accidents/incidents recording system
- public liability insurance
- evidence from the childminder's self assessment
- the resources, toys and environment.

We spoke with the childminder and observed her interactions with the minded child present during the inspection.

Views of people using the service

During the inspection there was one minded child present. We observed that he was happy and content in his environment. The child had a positive rapport with the childminder who interacted with him as he played and she responded to his requests in a kind, nurturing and caring manner.

Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self assessment from the childminder. We were satisfied with the way she completed this and with the relevant information included for each heading we grade services under.

What the service did well

The childminder demonstrated an understanding of the needs and interests of the minded children. She offers a variety of activities and outings which are appropriate for the children attending. The childminder offers a nurturing, caring and flexible service for children in a homely environment.

What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to provide her very good service which focuses on providing positive outcomes for the children in their care.

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 shared information about her service with new parents and offered a flexible settling in process to allow children to feel safe and secure in her care. Parents were asked to complete a variety of forms to allow the childminder to gather information about their children which would ensure she met their individual care needs. She completed a development record for every child which linked to the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators and were shared with parents for their comments. The childminder demonstrated that she knew the children very well and met their needs in a kind, caring and very nurturing manner.

Communication was very important to the childminder. She spoke with parents daily to allow information to be shared between them. This helped to ensure she was aware of any changes to the child's care needs and to share information about the child's day. Children were consulted about their views at every opportunity and were able to suggest activities and topics. This allowed the children to be included and active participants who are listened to and offered choices.

All meals and snacks were provided by parents. The childminder would offer children snacks if they were still hungry, for example fresh fruit, a biscuit and toast. She used the nutritional guidance 'Setting the Table' to encourage children to develop healthy preferences when choosing snacks.

The childminder confidently discussed what she would do if she had a welfare concern about a minded child and showed an understanding of her role in safeguarding children. She chatted with children about how they could keep themselves safe when they were out and about with her which included road safety. This helped to ensure children were protected and kept safe from abuse.

The childminder's medication system included gaining parents' consent for her to administer medication and a medication policy which informed parents about the procedure she had in place. This showed that the childminder was aware of the importance of administering medication safely.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder's home offered children a comfortable, homely environment where they were cared for and nurtured. Daily risk assessments ensured the areas used for childminding purposes were free from hazards and

ensured that children were cared for in a safe and well maintained environment. A parent told us: 'Elaine keeps a very clean and safe house'.

Activities and resources were age and stage appropriate for the children attending each day. They were regularly rotated to meet children's interests. The toys were easily accessible and allowed the children to play independently. They were supported throughout their play by the childminder who offered them choices and listened to their requests. This allowed the children to be included and active participants in their learning and development.

Outings to local parks and walks were a daily occurrence as the childminder felt it was important to get the children out in the fresh air and to allow them to be active. Children also enjoyed outings to soft play, the library and the beach. The childminder shared with us that the childminding group she was a member of had recently obtained a small section of ground at Craigie Farm. This was an opportunity for the group to go with minded children to dig in the earth and to grow vegetables. This allowed children to be active both inside and outside the childminder's home and to develop a sense of belonging to their local community. Parents told us:

- 'My childminder is a strong advocate for outdoor activities and regularly takes my children to the local park which they love. The kids love days out with Elaine.'
- 'She is flexible, friendly and gets the kids out and about as much as possible which suits out child's interests.'

Measures were in place to minimise the risk of spreading infection. The childminder supported children to wash their hands before having meals and snacks and after using the toilet. Exclusion periods for illness were shared with parents should their child be ill. Accident/ incident forms were used to inform parents about what had happened to their child and the actions taken by the childminder. Parents signed to confirm they had been told about the accident.

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 told us about the different ways she kept up to date with best practice and legislation. She was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and received update e-mails, information on training

opportunities and copies of their magazine. She also received the Care Inspectorate's 'Care News' and was a member of a local childminder's group who shared information and advice. This helped with the delivery of her service.

The childminder had taken part in training courses on subjects such as GIRFEC, child protection, Building the Ambition, outdoor play and food hygiene. This showed her commitment to increase her knowledge about the care of children.

The childminder involved parents and children in the evaluation of her service. She used questionnaires to gather formal comment from parents on ways she could improve and develop her service. However, she got a limited response and she felt she gathered more information through the daily discussions she had with them. Children gave their views daily about what they would like to do and they were offered choices. Parents and children's comments and views were valued by the childminder.

A complaints policy informed parents how to raise concern about the childminder's service. She was confident that parents would discuss any aspect of her service with her if they had an issue. Parents told us:

- 'If I had a concern, which I don't and never have done, I would discuss it with Elaine.'
- 'Speak to her directly'.

In the two completed Care Inspectorate care standard questionnaires received from parents they both strongly agreed with the following statement:

- Overall, I am happy with the quality of care my child receives in this service.

Parent's written comments included:

- Elaine is a wonderful childminder with many years of experience and is worth her weight in gold. My children love her and treat her house as their second home. Elaine is one in a million and makes my life so much easier as it is hard juggling working full-time and bringing up two children and knowing my kids are well looked after and happy at Elaine's makes me very happy.'
- 'My child is happy at his childminder which is very important to me.'

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

The childminder should review and update her child protection statement to include the details of the services she would contact. The statement should be shared with parents.

National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16
Standard 3: Health and wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 23 November 2015.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had reviewed and updated her child protection statement and it contained the contact details of Social Care Direct. Therefore this recommendation has been met.

Recommendation 2

The childminder should access a child protection training course.

National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16
Standard 12: Confidence in staff.

This recommendation was made on 23 November 2015.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had attended child protection training. Therefore this recommendation has 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
21 Oct 2015	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 5 - Very good
17 Aug 2011	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 6 - Excellent Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
1 Feb 2010	Announced	Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment Not assessed Staffing 6 - Excellent Management and leadership Not assessed
8 Dec 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good

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Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

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