

Ross, Julie

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 26 February 2018

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2005947048

Care service number:
CS2005096391

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 Julie Ross, referred to as the childminder throughout this report, provides her childminding service from her home in a residential area of North West Edinburgh. Her home is close to local amenities and transport links. The areas of her home used for childminding purposes are the playroom, bathroom and supervised access to the kitchen. Children have access to a secure garden to the rear of the property.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of sixteen, of whom no more than three are not yet attending school and no more than one is under one year. These numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. Stair gates to be fitted at the top of stairs to entry hall, at foot of the stairs leading to upper floor and across the kitchen door way. Public liability insurance and records must be in place and policy covering the protection of children must be written.

There is one child registered with the service. They are aged five years old and attend on a part-time basis. The minded child was present during the inspection.

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 Monday 26 February 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 form 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 one 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
- accidents/incidents recording system
- 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

The minded child was present during the inspection and he appeared to have a very positive rapport with the childminder. He confidently approached the childminder for comfort and support and was happy and content. He played with the toys available and sat with the childminder who supported him with his mark making and artwork. The childminder was caring and nurturing in her response to his needs.

In the completed Care Inspectorate care standard questionnaire received from parents they indicated 'strongly agree' with the following statement:

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

Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate did not receive a fully completed self assessment from the childminder. We discussed this with her as part of the inspection process.

What the service did well

The childminder offers a caring and flexible service for families in a nurturing, homely environment. She works with families to ensure she has the information required to meet the care needs of the children.

What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to review and develop her service on a regular basis in line with best practice guidance and as outlined within this report.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder told us about the children in her care. She was able to demonstrate that she knew them well and that she followed family routines as much as possible to help the children settle and to feel safe and secure. Daily chats with parents as they dropped off and picked up their children was used by her to share and exchange information. A correspondence diary was used as the daily exchange of information about the minded child's time with the childminder.

A variety of methods were used to help ensure the childminder had information gathered about the children, their interests and their likes and dislikes. She had begun to record how she met the children's needs in line with the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators. This helped the childminder to meet children's individual care needs. The childminder would benefit from expanding children's individual personal plan information to record children's care needs and interests. We will follow this up at the next inspection.

The childminder provided snacks and lunch for the minded children and offered a variety of healthy, homemade meals and fresh fruit daily. She promoted healthy eating and took children's dietary requirements into account. The childminder was aware of the best practice nutritional guidance 'Setting the table - Nutritional guidance and food standards for early years childcare providers in Scotland'.

The childminder had a medication policy which needed to be reviewed and updated. She should include information for parents that they must give the first dose of any newly prescribed medication to ensure their child did not have an allergic reaction to it. Also, the childminder did not have any copies of her medication consent form and recording system used when parents requested medication to be administered to their child. She agreed to get more copies of the forms and to review and update her medication policy. We will follow this up at the next inspection.

The childminder discussed her responsibility to protect the children in her care. She had a child protection policy which informed parents about the steps she would take in the event of any welfare concerns regarding the children in her care. The childminder spoke with children about how to keep themselves safe when out and about with her such as road safety.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder's home was a safe, comfortable and homely environment for the minded children. Risk assessments were completed to ensure the safety of the environment which was well maintained. Safety equipment was used dependent on the age of the children and their stage of development. This helped to encourage the children to be independent. Infection control procedures ensured the childminder supported children to wash their hands after being outside, before meals and snacks and after toileting. Exclusion periods for illness were shared with parents.

The playroom was used for a variety of stimulating activities where the children could easily access the toys and resources. The large garden was used to allow the children to engage in a variety of opportunities for active play in fresh air.

The childminder made use of the facilities within the local community including local toddler groups, the library for Rhyme Time sessions and local parks. This allowed children to be active both inside and outside the childminder's home and they could develop a sense of belonging to their local community.

Accidents and incidents were recorded on forms and 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: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The childminder kept up to date with current best practice and legislation through a variety of ways. She was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association's (SCMA) and received their magazine and email updates. The childminder also received the Care Inspectorate's Care News.

The childminder had taken part in training courses on autism and child protection. She had booked a place on a first aid course which she was due to attend in May 2018. The childminder's attendance at these courses would have a positive impact on the outcomes for minded children. We discussed recent publications by the Care

Inspectorate with the childminder and shared information about 'My World Outdoor', 'Space to Grow' and 'Our Creative Journey'.

A complaints policy informed parents how to raise any concerns they might have about the service and told them of their right to contact the Care Inspectorate at any time.

The childminder was professional in her approach to delivering her service and she valued the views of children and parents to help improve her service. The childminder had an understanding of GIRFEC and the SHANARRI principles and had begun to use them when planning for the children. The childminder told us that she had considered giving out questionnaires to parents to gain their views on specific topics relating to her service. However, as she had a small amount of parents using her service she felt the daily chats she had with parents allowed them to give their views. Children were consulted daily about what they would like to do and the childminder offered them different activities to choose from for both indoors and outdoors. We discussed different ways the childminder could allow parents to influence her service. The childminder agreed to consider this and we will follow it up at the next inspection.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - 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 Julie Ross carries out and records risk assessments for each area used for childminding and for trips or outings. Through this she should identify any hazards and the steps she would take to minimise their impact.

National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16
Standard 2: A safe environment.

This recommendation was made on 28 February 2013.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder has recorded risk assessments in place. Therefore this recommendation has been met.

Recommendation 2

It is recommended that Julie Ross reviews her child protection policy to make her duty to report any child protection concerns to the social work department, police or health visitor clearly stated. She should discuss this with parents so that all are aware of responsibilities.

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

This recommendation was made on 28 February 2013.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder has reviewed and updated her child protection policy and has added the recommended information. 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	
28 Feb 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
26 Jun 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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