

Jones, Christina

Child Minding

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

Service provided by:
Jones, Mrs. Christina

Service provider number:
SP2003908079

Care service number:
CS2003009320

The service

Introduction

This service has been registered since 2002.

The service is located in the village of Cockburnspath. The childminder provides her service from her home, which has a large garden. The childminder's home is within walking distance of the school, shops and parks.

Christina Jones is registered to provide a service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under 16 years of whom no more than 6 are under 12 years, of whom no more than 3 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.

When working with an assistant a care service can be provided to a maximum of 12 children at any one time under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than 12 will be under 12 years, of whom no more than 6 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 2 are under 12 months.

Nicola Henderson, Janet Walker and Sally Hogg are employed as assistants.

Currently the service has 13 children on their register. These children attend at different times on different days of the week. On the day we visited the service four children were present and one assistant was working with the childminder.

Aims and objectives of the service include for children to:

"Develop confidence and self-esteem.

Feel safe and secure in all aspects of life, including health and wellbeing."

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. Information on SHANARRI can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

What we did during our inspection

We sent the childminder six Care Standard Questionnaires to give to parents who used the service. Five were returned before the inspection. Comments are included in this report.

During the inspection we gathered evidence from various sources including talking to the childminder and her assistant, talking to and observing the children, looking at key information kept to ensure that children's needs were met. We also looked at resources, equipment and the environment.

All of the above information was taken into account and reported on under the relevant quality themes within this report.

Views of people using the service

During the inspection we observed the minded children to be happy, actively occupied and comfortable in the care of the childminder. We saw that the childminder supported all the children well. They listened to them and allowed them to make their own choices in deciding what they wanted to play with.

We received very positive comments from parents about the service. Some of the comments are included below and some are written within the body of the report. All parents strongly agreed with the statement 'Overall, I am happy with the quality of care my child receives at this service'.

"I would like to say my children are so happy at Christinas to the extent they don't want to come home. So in my opinion that says it all."

"Christina has a very kind nature with our child. Our child just adores her."

"I cannot express how lucky we are to have her as our childminder."

"Christina is kind, considerate, good at listening to the parents and children's needs and adapts to help. She is always keeping the children occupied with activities."

"I would not trust anyone else with my child as she does such a super job."

Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self assessment document from the childminder. We were satisfied with the way that they had completed this and with the relevant information they gave us for each of the headings we grade them under. It was evident she had given a lot of thought as to what to write and it gave us a real flavour of the service she provides.

What the service did well

Children were being cared for in a safe, warm, happy and nurturing environment. The childminder responded gently and reassuringly to the children and was able to meet all their needs. The childminder and her assistant offered children a very good range of experiences which supported their development and encouraged independence and self-esteem. It was evident that she had very good relationships with the parents.

What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to access training courses in order to promote the best outcomes for the children she cares for. Although the childminder knew the children and their individual needs well she should ensure further evidence is kept to support this. We asked the childminder to update some of her knowledge by looking at the new Health and Social Care Standards.

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 | 5 - Very Good |
| Quality of management and leadership | 5 - Very Good |

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder had a very good understanding of child development and promoted health and wellbeing through the use of a wide range of outdoor areas for physical play, healthy eating and good hygiene practices. A parent told us their childminder was a "great cook". Another told us that there was always "healthy fruits and whole grains at breakfast and good homemade soups". Parent also told us the childminder takes into consideration all food allergies and preferences.

It was evident that the childminder had very good relationships with the parents of the children she cared for which allowed the childminder to ensure consistency between the child's home and hers. Parents commented that their childminder was "regularly in touch with myself and husband to include our views and opinions" and "you really feel valued as she treats everyone as individuals". The childminder ensured settling in visits and transitions to nursery and school were positive experiences for the children. She handled these sensitively and inclusively.

We found the childminder to have a lovely nature with children and got down to their level for play and included them in conversation. She used praise and encouragement constantly, helping them to feel secure and comfortable. This helped promote positive behaviour as she was a good role model.

Children's personal learning plans were detailed and evidenced how children were progressing. The information was kept up to date with many photos evidencing the varied experiences they were getting. From the floor book we could see how SHANARRI was being used in the service. Although we found the childminder knew all the children well she did agree to update the detail in children's personal plans to evidence that the care she offered was consistent with the child's care at home. She also agreed to further involve school aged children and their parents with individual personal learning plans.

By being aware of her roles and responsibilities in the protection and safeguarding of children she was able to keep them safe. The childminder also supported children to keep themselves safe by practicing road safety and promoting safe practices while travelling in her car.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder had created a safe, warm, happy, stimulating and creative environment where children could feel welcomed and valued. Through varied play opportunities children were supported and encouraged to develop their natural curiosity, confidence and build their self-esteem. A parent told us their childminder "encouraged outdoor play in her large garden area" and that "the nature walks were brilliant". Children were taking ownership of their play spaces and designing and building their own bug houses was an example of this. The childminder recognised the importance of providing resources which were age appropriate but offered challenge in order to extend their learning and promote independent thinking. The home was very child friendly and the childminder had developed a very organised but busy playroom for them to have fun in.

The childminder had risk assessed her home and garden in order to ensure children's safety. She recognised the benefits of some risky play and how this helped to develop children's confidence. We saw she was vigilant in respect of good hand hygiene and that children were learning about good health, keeping safe, being independent and respecting other.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

Findings from the inspection

The childminder followed appropriate recruitment procedures for assistants, ensuring they were fit for working with children. The assistant working on the day we visited confirmed this.

Assistants roles were detailed and included their responsibilities with regard to the care and safety of children. There was an expectation assistants would attend training and keep up to date with current best practices in caring for children. The childminder told us her assistants were very good at sharing their learning with her and bringing this learning into the service to promote best outcomes for the children.

The childminder monitored the work of assistants and promoted and encouraged best practice at all times.

In our Care Standard Questionnaires parents commented:

"There is a helper called Janet. she is very enthusiastic and conscientious."

"Christina has a helper who is very good with the children. She is kind."

"She (the childminder) has an assistant who is very caring and helps the children with all the activities they are doing on that day."

"She (the assistant) supports and develops our children."

"the assistant supports the childminder in all roles."

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The childminders commitment and enthusiasm to her job was a major strength of her service. Her reassuring and friendly manner was conducive to providing a quality service which was supportive and caring toward the children and their parents.

The childminder continued to develop her service by accessing relevant training opportunities and keeping up to date with current best practice and childcare legislation. She told us that she enjoyed training and updating her knowledge and had found on-line training most suitable to her needs. As a result of this training the childminder was confident and knowledgeable.

Children were given opportunities to socialise and mix with other children. The childminder recognised that this was an important part of growing up and parents showed their appreciation of this.

We looked at the comprehensive information shared with parents. This information made it clear to parents that she had their child's best interest at heart and made a commitment to working with and involving them and their child in all aspects of the service. Parents confirmed to us that they would speak "directly" with their childminder should they have concerns.

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

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.

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

| Date | Type | Gradings |
|-------------|--------------------------|--|
| 12 May 2016 | Unannounced | Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good |
| 18 Jul 2014 | Unannounced | Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good |
| 13 Mar 2013 | Re-grade | Care and support Not assessed Environment Not assessed Staffing 6 - Excellent Management and leadership Not assessed |
| 11 Mar 2013 | Re-grade | Care and support Not assessed Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed |
| 19 Jul 2012 | Announced (short notice) | Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment 6 - Excellent Staffing 6 - Excellent Management and leadership Not assessed |
| 9 Mar 2012 | Re-grade | Care and support Not assessed Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed |
| 27 Feb 2012 | Re-grade | Care and support Not assessed Environment Not assessed |

| Date | Type | Gradings | |
|------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | Staffing Management and leadership | 1 - Unsatisfactory Not assessed |
| 1 Mar 2011 | Announced (short notice) | Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership | 6 - Excellent Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed |
| 8 Dec 2009 | Announced (short notice) | Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership | 5 - Very good Not assessed 4 - Good Not assessed |
| 4 Nov 2008 | Announced (short notice) | Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership | 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good |

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