

Carr, Allison **Child Minding**

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)
Inspection completed on: 7 June 2018

Service provided by:
Carr, Allison

Service provider number:
SP2003906505

Care service number:
CS2003012786

The service

Introduction

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

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 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.

Allison Carr offers a childminding service from the family home in Armadale, West Lothian. Her home is within reasonable distance of local schools, shops, parks and other amenities. The areas of the home used to provide childminding are the lower floor rooms and include the living room, kitchen, bathroom and a designated playroom. Children also have easy access to the rear garden.

The childminder cares for children before and after school only.

Ms Carr is registered to care for a maximum of eight children under 16 years of age, of whom no more than six will be under 12 years of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and no more than one child is under 12 months old. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own family.

Aims and objectives are available for parents/carers to view.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an announced short notice inspection carried out by an inspector on 7 June 2018 from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. We provided feedback to the childminder on the same day.

We sent questionnaires to Ms Carr to distribute to parents/carers. Five completed questionnaires were returned to us. Comments show that parents are very happy with the service.

During the inspection we gathered evidence from a variety of sources including discussion with Ms Carr, discussion and interaction with the three minded children who were present during our inspection visit. We discussed and checked on relevant policies and records.

These included activities undertaken with the minded children, medication and children's personal plans. We observed how the childminder interacted with the children. We considered the general environment and the equipment used in the provision of the childcare service.

Views of people using the service

The children told us about the resources in the playroom and showed us the many games and resources they played with. The spoke proudly about their work displayed on the wall and their sense of achievement.

They told us they recently voted to call the service 'The Crazy Fun House' and they had changed the name of the 'Club House' in the garden to the 'Wood Shed' and how one of the grandads had help them lay the floor in the shed. They said they were planning to make wooden items and one child had already bought goggles to wear.

One child told us it was her birthday yesterday.

Overall parents are very happy with the service and felt their child was offered a variety of activities and play opportunities. They felt their child was provided with a safe and caring, nurturing environment.

Some parents told us:

"The children have fun in the community garden, local parks, outdoor activity centres."

"Alison is very good at keeping my child and others active, organising activities indoors and outdoors, trips and outings."

"Children receive healthy snacks that are low-salt, fruit and vegetables. They make their own pancakes."

"The service is always developing and changing. The latest development is the introduction of the wood shed. Children have grown potatoes and plants."

"Ideas are shared on Facebook and opinions are asked for. Regularly asked if there are any activities we as parents would like to see being offered."

"My daughter is extremely well looked after and feels valued in Alison's care. She enjoys all the activities, and they have helped build self-esteem and confidence. I feel very fortunate to have found such a dedicated childminder."

Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self-assessment from Ms Carr. She identified what she thought she did well.

The self-assessment submitted was of a good standard and an appropriate reflection of the positive practice identified during the inspection.

What the service did well

Ms Carr has developed very good relationships with the minded children and their families and provided a high quality of care and support. She was very aware of children's individual needs and worked hard to meet them.

The environment was inviting, relaxed and welcoming for children.

Children's information was well documented and linked to 'Getting it Right for Every Child' (GIRFEC) and the eight indicators. This supported Ms Carr to be child-led and outcome focused.

What the service could do better

We noted risk assessments were in place and these encouraged children to be challenged when taking part in a variety of activities. However, we ask that Ms Carr carries out a risk assessment of the minded children playing independently in the nearby park. Parents should be included in the process and the outcome recorded in the child's care plan.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
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

Parents' questionnaires clearly showed that Ms Carr regularly obtained and encouraged the views of parents and children. She used their comments and linked this to the child's interest and routine at home. Ms Carr provided a child led service giving children an excellent influence on the service offered. This meant that children's views were greatly valued and respected.

Children proudly showed us their SHANARRI book. They wrote or drew the things they considered the service provided. This supported children to make everyday choices about their learning and helped them to evaluate their experience. Ms Carr referred to the National Practice Guidance 'Building on the Ambition' to support her excellent practice.

The childminder is part of a group of childminders who purchased a plot at a local allotment. This enabled children to grow and nurture their own vegetables. It helps children to be included in their community and provide them with a broader range of learning experiences.

Children were encouraged to make healthy choices through discussion, topics and themes on the importance of eating well and having regular exercise. Children's individual needs were considered when planning snacks.

As previously mentioned the children had access to the local community garden where they were involved in group discussions about healthy eating. Ms Carr referred to good practice guidance, 'Setting the Table' and this clearly supported her practice.

The children told us how they were encouraged by Ms Carr to look at ways to develop a 'Growth Mindset'. They described how they were to use this in their daily life. One child said she was not good at maths. Ms Carr guided her to a wall display reminding her that we cannot be good at everything; and reminded her what she was good at, such as, swimming, art and crafts. The child responded positively to the childminder's response. Children's achievements were acknowledged by the childminder through several ways. Her approach showed she was responsive to children's individual care and support needs.

Ms Carr had a wide selection of policies and procedures, such as, medication and child protection. She continued to have a full understanding in how to keep children happy, stimulated and safe while in her care.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 – excellent

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The environment was inviting, relaxed and welcoming for children. We saw they accessed a well-resourced playroom with comfortable furnishings to relax. Children helped themselves to the toys or resources they wanted to play with. The layout of the room supported their independence.

Consideration had gone into how children's work was displayed. Children talked openly and happily about their art work. Their work was clearly valued, and this gave them a real sense of belonging and independence.

Children enjoyed using the back garden that had resources for them to use, such as, small putting green, basketball and suitably sized table and chairs where they undertook an enjoyable activity.

The children showed us their 'Wooden Shed', named by the children. They told us they were soon to be involved in making wooden items where they will be able to use nails and wood. They had put risk assessments into place, which included wearing goggles. This provided children with further, fun learning experiences.

We noted risk assessments were in place and these encouraged children to be challenged when taking part in a variety of activities. However, we ask that the risk assessments include children playing independently in the nearby park. Parents should be included in the process and the outcome recorded in the child's care plan.

Ms Carr followed a number of good practice guidance, such as, 'Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings'. She was aware of the importance of washing hands throughout the day and this helped to minimise the spread of infection.

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

Ms Carr has a recognised childcare qualification, and this supported her practice. She regularly involves parents and children in her service.

She kept her knowledge on topics such as, child protection; first aid and food hygiene up to date. When required, she applies her learning to practice. This showed her commitment to her role in keeping children safe, happy and healthy.

The childminder was familiar with the Care Inspectorate publication 'Our Creative Journey'. She recognised the importance of providing children with a chance to develop their self-confidence in a nurturing caring environment.

Ms Carr followed the principles of 'Getting it Right for Every Child' (GIRFEC), 'Building the Ambition' and 'My World Outdoors'. This has helped her to reflect as she put into practice how to provide for the changing needs of children and families.

Children's information was well documented and linked to 'Getting it Right for Every Child' and the eight indicators. This supported Ms Carr to be child-led and outcome focused.

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	
1 Sep 2016	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good Not assessed 5 - Very good
8 Jan 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed 5 - Very good
16 Nov 2012	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 6 - Excellent Not assessed
15 Jul 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed
27 May 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed

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