

Trisha's Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 17 July 2018

Service provided by:
Barker, Patricia

Service provider number:
SP2017989379

Care service number:
CS2017360490

The service

Introduction

Patricia Barker, operating as Trisha's Childminding, registered with the Care Inspectorate on 6 November 2017. This is the first inspection of the service.

The childminder can provide care to a maximum of 6 children under the age of 16 years, 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 the children of the childminder's family.

One minded child and the childminders own two children were present on the day we visited.

The childminder provided her service from her terraced cottage situated close to Westruther. She makes good use of the secure front garden and the surrounding countryside.

The aims of the service included:

"To provide a warm, friendly, safe and secure environment within my family home
I will provide a stimulating environment in which the children can learn through play.
I will take feedback and information from children when planning activities."

We found these aims to reflect the service.

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

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

We took account of the comments parents gave us in our care standards questionnaires.

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

We saw that the minded child was happy to be with their childminder, actively occupied, comfortable and relaxed in the care provided. We saw that the childminder supported the child well and promoted best outcomes for them. 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 in our care standard questionnaires. 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'.

"Trisha is great. My child loves their time there."

"I am very happy with the way that Trisha cares for my child".

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 child and was able to meet their needs. Children are offered a very good range of experiences which supported their development, encouraging independence and self-esteem. It was evident that she had very good relationships with the parents.

What the service could do better

We asked that the childminder updates some of her knowledge by looking at the new Health and Social Care Standards and familiarise herself with a range current good practice guidance.

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	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder was able to promote the best outcomes for children as she demonstrated a very good understanding of child development. She promoted children's wellbeing through the very good use of outdoor play, healthy eating and good hygiene practices, including tooth brushing. A parent told us "Trisha's provides all meals and snacks. These are very varied and I am very happy with everything she is providing".

It was evident the childminder had very good relationships with parents of the children she cared for. A parent told us their childminder spoke with them "after each session to discuss things" and "chat about expectations". This allowed the childminder to ensure consistency between the child's home and hers. We found the childminder acted upon the wishes and suggestions from parents regarding the care of their child, for example trying new foods and encouraging outdoor play. The childminder described ensuring settling in visits were positive experiences for the children and their parents and she handled these sensitively and inclusively. This helped to reassure parents and a parent told us they get "photo updates throughout the day so I can see they are really enjoying themselves".

The childminder had a lovely nature with the child 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. We saw how well the childminder's own children included the minded child in play and had fun with them throughout our visit.

Parents were involved in their child's personal plans and these evidenced how their child was cared for and progressing. Evaluations by parents were very supportive of the service and a parent commented "we love the service you provide and feel incredibly reassured that our child is receiving the best care possible". Information was kept up to date with many photographs evidencing the varied, fun and stimulating experiences children were having.

By being aware of her role and responsibility in the safe guarding and protection of children the childminder was able to keep them safe. The childminder supported children to gain confidence in keeping themselves safe, for example by practising road safety and being a positive role model.

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, and creative environment where children could feel welcomed, valued and have choice. From photographs we could see children were given many opportunities to develop their natural curiosity, confidence and self-esteem.

She 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 well organised, fun and stimulating playroom for them to explore. Children were involved in the creation of their play spaces, for example den building in the woods and actively building and decorating the mud kitchen. A parent told us their childminder provided "varied activities, for example sand play, mud kitchen, craft, basic science experiments and imaginative play".

The childminder described enjoying outdoor life. She made very good use of her garden, areas surrounding her home and local children's groups. These offered children very good environments for active learning about nature and building confidence whilst having fun with their peers. A parent told us their childminder "provides a stimulating environment with indoor and outdoor areas including crafts and imaginative play". They also said their child is taken to "music lessons and other activities out of the house".

The childminder recognised the benefits of risky play and how this helped to develop children's confidence. Through her management of risk, children were encouraged to become more aware of their own safety and life skills were developed. We saw that the childminder was vigilant in respect of good hand hygiene and that children were learning about keeping themselves healthy which promoted independence and respect.

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's childcare experience, commitment and enthusiasm was a strength of her service. Her professional, reassuring and friendly manner was conducive to providing a very good quality service which was supportive and caring toward the parents and children she cared for. A parent told us their childminder "always asks our opinions on day-to-day issues".

The childminder continued to assess, develop and improve the service she provided. She did this by developing supportive partnerships with parents and local childminders, reading professional journals and accessing relevant training opportunities. She kept up to date with current best practice and childcare legislation but recognised she needed to be more aware of some current good practice guidelines. As a result of training the childminder was confident and knowledgeable. She shared what she had learnt with parents which meant parents were becoming familiar with best practice and kept them involved in the development of her service. The childminder involved parents and children in the evaluation of her service and this meant they could feel involved in service development and she was able to meet individual needs. She recognised the links she had with other childminders in the area promoted children's wellbeing, for example sharing real world learning through 'loose parts' play experiences. This meant children were given very good opportunities to socialise and mix with other children.

Written information for parents was comprehensive, letting them know of the activities she provided, all about her policies and procedures and the aims and objectives of her service. This information made it clear to parents that she had their child's best interests at heart and made a commitment to working with and involving them and their child in all aspects of the service. Information on confidentiality and how and who to raise any issue about the service with, should they have concerns was included.

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

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

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

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