care inspectorate

Currie, Kirsty
Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 24 October 2018

Service provided by:
Currie, Kirsty

Service provider number:
SP2007964442

Care service number:
CS2007145666

HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

Introduction

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Prior to 1 April 2011, this function was carried out by the Care Commission. Information in relation to 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.

We registered Mrs Currie to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of six will be under 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The childminder operates her service from the family home which is a detached house in a residential area of Armadale, Bathgate, West Lothian where she lives close to local shops and amenities, and has access to public transport.

Currently, there are seven children on the register who are cared for on a part-time basis. On the day of this inspection five minded children were present.

Children have access to a playroom, dining area of the kitchen and bathroom. There is a secure garden to the rear of the property for children to participate in physical activities.

The childminder's aims included:

'To provide a safe, healthy, caring and structured environment with stimulating surroundings where children can grow, learn and have fun in happy and secure surroundings;

to equip children to become confident and enthusiastic learners;

to encourage creativity through play;

establish a close working relationship with their home and parents and carers.'

What we did during our inspection

We carried out an unannounced inspection on Wednesday 24 October 2018 between 16:00 hours and 18:30 hours.

During this inspection process, we looked around the areas of the childminder's home used by minded children and gathered evidence from:

- The annual return document
- Children's information folders
- Policies including child protection, complaints, health and safety and risk assessments
- Public liability insurance
- Photographs of children participating in activities

- Observation of practice
- Risk assessments for the environment and outings
- Training
- Daily diary.

Views of people using the service

Five children were present during the inspection. All were happy in the care of the childminder. They chatted and laughed with each other as they decided what they were going to do.

Children were actively involved in making decisions as they chose what they wanted for snack and planned activities.

Children had good relationships with each other and, in the relaxed atmosphere, they sang songs and giggled while waiting for their snack. They chose to play in the garden on the climbing frame.

We received two parents' questionnaires before the inspection and saw parents as they collected their children. They were extremely happy with the service provided. They told us that they regularly discussed their children's needs with the childminder. Sharing of information by text and sending photographs let parents know what activities their children were involved in. Parents told us the childminder supported their child's individual needs.

They felt involved in the service as they were asked their opinions and informed about any changes. They found the childminder to be friendly and approachable and would be able to discuss anything with her. Their comments included;

'The activities vary from day to day, but they do lots of arts and crafts with plenty of outdoor play and trips to local parks'.

'Kirsty had always asked questions about what we do outwith childminding hours. I believe from learning about how we are as a family she has a good understanding of how we parent and uses this to care of her (child) whilst in her care'.

'I have no worries or concerns when my child is in her (childminder) care and know that my child will be safe and well cared for'.

'Kirsty's family are all very warm and welcoming'.

Self assessment

The childminder did not complete this document before the inspection.

What the service did well

The childminder demonstrated that she knew children very well. She had good relationships with the children that were kind, caring and respectful. She encouraged children to make decisions about what they wanted to do and ensured everyone was listened to.

What the service could do better

The childminder could further develop record keeping in relation to how training and self evaluation are used to develop the service.

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 had cared for some children for a few years which meant she knew them well and had a very good understanding of their needs and interests. Children's folders contained information from when they started being cared for by the childminder. These showed how children had been supported, how they had developed and their achievements.

The childminder had appropriate systems to gather information about children when they started using her service. To support continuity of care, we saw that discussion with parents and the childminder was used effectively to talk about the needs of children and agree areas they would be supported with. For example, we saw how children were supported when they were starting nursery and with speech development. Regular reviews ensured children's progress was monitored.

Throughout the inspection, we saw that the childminder had positive interactions with the children. Most of the children were school age and their independence was supported well by the childminder. She gave them space to play which helped them take responsibility in their play. We saw that children organised their own games and could move freely between in and outdoors. They had fun using the climbing frame in the garden and later chose to do quieter activities in the playroom.

Children had various opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles. The childminder recognised the benefits of being outdoors and this was a regular part of children's routine. They walked from school and nursery every day, played in the woods and local parks. Children could play on large equipment and explore the natural environment which promoted their physical development and well-being.

We were satisfied that the childminder had a very good understanding about her responsibilities to safeguard children.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder provided a homely environment for children which was welcoming and friendly. Her home was very well maintained and organised for the children. The childminder described the established systems she had in place to ensure the environment was clean, risk assessed and safe for children. We were satisfied the childminder had a very good understanding of current infection control and safety procedures which she implemented to ensure that children could play safely in and outdoors.

The childminder told us how activities and outings were planned for children, dependent on who was attending and what they wanted to do. Children had the use of the playroom, where toys and resources were readily available to them. They used the dining area for art and craft activities and the enclosed back garden for physical play. We also confirmed very good use was made of community resources by using local amenities and going further afield to places of interest in the school holidays. Children told us they liked arts and craft and, from photographs, we saw they participated in physical play at the park, played in the snow, playing games and dressing up.

Through discussion, we confirmed that there was an established routine in place for collecting children from school. Children were encouraged to walk every day, with the car being used in bad weather.

We saw that when parents collected their child, an 'open door' policy was in place. They could come straight into the childminder's home which meant, on arrival, they saw how their children were being cared for and what activities they were involved in. This welcoming environment promoted positive relationships as they chatted easily with the childminder.

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 had a range of policies and procedures in place to support her practice which she shared with parents. She had established very good systems that showed how she supported children and operated her service. These were shared with parents so they were aware of what to expect from the service and know how their children were well cared for. The childminder and parents told us about the positive relationships they had developed which helped them share information and ensure children's needs were met by the child centred approach.

To keep up-to-date with current practice and promote her professional development, the childminder used good practice guidance, publications from the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA), the Care Inspectorate Hub and internet. Networking with other childminders also helped her to keep abreast of changes. Since her last inspection, the childminder had renewed her first aid certificate and was planning to update her child protection training. We asked the childminder to note what training or research she completed and how it had helped her service.

Parents had a variety of opportunities to give their views about the service as the childminder talked to them every day. Children were also involved in this process as they chose activities and outings to do, could give their views about what they had liked doing and make suggestions for future plans. As this ensured that children's and parents' opinions were valued, we saw from feedback that parents and children were very happy with the service provided and felt involved in its development.

We talked to the childminder about the changes in early years services. She was aware of the developments and had a copy of the Health and Social Care Standards which will be used to assess services. At the moment, most of the consultation with parents and children is carried out verbally. One area for development would be to develop more formal systems to show how self-evaluation is used to ensure good outcomes for children.

There was valid public liability and car insurance in place.

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

Please see Care Inspectorate website (www.careinspectorate.com) for details of complaints about the service which have been upheld.

Enforcement

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

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
22 Oct 2014	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed 5 - Very good
13 Jan 2011	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
11 Mar 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed
25 Mar 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed

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