

Beaton, Christine Child Minding

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)
Inspection completed on: 11 September 2018

Service provided by:
Christine Beaton

Service provider number:
SP2003902019

Care service number:
CS2003003779

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.

Christine Beaton operates her childminding service from her family home in the Bearsden area of East Dunbartonshire. The service is well-situated to local amenities and schools.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under 16, 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 childminder's family.

The children have the use of the living accommodation, toilet facilities and enclosed garden.

The childminder aims to provide: "A safe and stimulating environment where children can feel happy and secure ... promote the welfare of children ... encourage positive attitudes."

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following a short notice announced inspection. The inspection was undertaken on the afternoon of Tuesday 11 September 2018. There were two minded children present.

As requested, we received an annual return and self assessment electronically. We considered the information within these documents as part of the inspection process.

We also gave consideration to the two care standards questionnaires completed and returned to us by families using the service.

We observed the parts of the premises used for childminding purposes and observed the interaction between the childminder and the minded children. We sampled children's records, viewed other relevant written documentation and discussed the service with the childminder.

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is Scotland's approach to supporting children and young people. It is intended as a framework that enables organisations who work on behalf of Scotland's children and their families to provide a consistent, supportive approach for all. The approach uses eight areas of wellbeing in which children and young people must progress in order to do well now and in the future - safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included (SHANARRI). These SHANARRI indicators are used to record observations, events, concerns (if there are any) and act as an aid in putting together each child's plan.

Views of people using the service

During the inspection, there were two minded children present. They told us that they enjoyed visiting the childminder and had done so since they were very young. The children told us that they were happy at the service and enjoyed the resources and activities provided. We observed the children to be comfortable, settled and confident in the childminding setting. Positive relationships had been developed with the childminder.

Self assessment

As highlighted previously, a self assessment was submitted electronically. This gave us information about what the childminder felt she did well. The childminder completed the self assessment document to a good standard.

What the service did well

The childminder had established positive relationships with the minded children and their families. She was observed to be warm and caring towards the children in her care treating them with consideration and respect throughout the inspection. It was clear from parents' responses to us that the families using the service were very happy with the quality of the service.

What the service could do better

The childminder should ensure that the children's personal plans are reviewed at least once in each six month period.

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

We found the service to be performing to a good standard in relation to the quality of care and support.

We found that children received warm and consistent care and support from the childminder. The childminder held very good information about each child to enable their care to be tailored to meet their individual needs. The childminder used a range of Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) paperwork to capture relevant information about each child. However, the childminder needed to ensure that this information was reviewed at least once in every six month period.

When asked about the care of their children, parents told us:

"[The childminder] is open and approachable. We discuss regularly after school snacks and activities. In holiday periods, she speaks with the children and decides on activities, e.g. trips to park, etc."

"All information for my child is up-to-date and I have no concerns. The childminder is a very approachable person with a warm character. I know I can speak to her on an ad hoc basis and equally she would be happy to take calls etc. if need be."

"Reviewed approximately on a monthly basis and the childminder implements changes next time."

From discussion, we could see that the childminder had developed very positive relationships with the children in her care. She respected their individual choices and needs. The daily routine involved drop off or collection from, and walking to and from, the local primary school. Children enjoyed opportunities to play outdoors in a local park on the route home from school.

During the inspection, the minded children played in the lounge with the selection of toys available. They also had a healthy snack, which they chose from a selection provided by the childminder. The children told us that they enjoyed coming to the childminder's home after school and that they were happy with the choice of activity and snack provided.

Indoors children could make choices from a range of activities like drawing and colouring and playing with the toys available. We observed a large range of age appropriate toys and games to play with. Children were encouraged to choose which toys they would like.

The childminder had appropriate arrangements in place to ensure that children's wellbeing was safeguarded at all times. The childminder had participated in child protection training several times in the past. As a result of this, the childminder was clear about her responsibilities to keep children safe and protected from harm at all times.

The childminder had appropriate procedures in place to administer medication to children in her care when required.

Throughout the inspection, the interaction between the children and the childminder was very positive. The children were relaxed and confident in her care and told us they were happy and well-cared for.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We found the service to be performing to a good standard in relation to the quality of environment.

The childminder was keen to ensure that children experienced care in a warm, caring and homely environment.

All children were able to access the downstairs facilities within the childminder's home. These consisted of the lounge, kitchen, hall and downstairs toilet. Children were able to participate in active play in the rear garden.

The environment was observed to be clean, well-decorated and in a good state of repair. No health and safety issues were observed. Appropriate resources, furnishings and fittings were available to support the childminder in her care of the children.

The childminder discussed the measures she took to ensure that children were protected, where possible, from exposure to risk and hazards. The childminder was aware of the need to enable children to assess and consider hazards themselves. The childminder told us that she carried out regular risk assessments to ensure that the children were safe and protected from hazards.

The minded children were observed to be safe, secure and comfortable in the childminder's home and garden.

The childminder was aware of her role in ensuring children were protected from the spread of infection within the home. Children were encouraged to wash their hands routinely after being outside, before and after eating and after visiting the toilet. The childminder also ensured she issued information on exclusion periods for infectious illnesses to parents.

There was an appropriate accident and incident recording system in place to ensure that parents and carers were advised if any children were involved in, for example, minor bumps.

We confirmed that the childminder held appropriate insurance for the service.

Parents made the following comments about the childminding environment:

"I am very happy with the routines and activities and so is my child. My child is often excited to come home and tell of the day/time spent with the childminder."

"The childminder has a variety and great choice of activities suitable for each age group."

"The childminder's home is very suitable - they [children] love the toys and play."

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

We found the service to be performing at a good standard in relation to the quality of management and leadership.

The childminder told us that she kept up-to-date with best practice guidance and changes to legislation through her links with East Dunbartonshire Council and other local childminders. The childminder had a long-standing membership with the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA).

Since the last inspection, the childminder had participated in training in first aid to underpin her practice.

We found that the childminder was well experienced and had developed a good range of knowledge over the years to underpin her practice.

The childminder respected the views of children and parents and used these views to continuously improve the service, where possible. Although questionnaires were available for completion by children and their parents, the childminder advised that she preferred to rely on verbal feedback.

Parents told us:

"The childminder is a true gift to my children and they love their time with her. As working parents this provides a huge peace of mind for us knowing our children are safe, cared for and stimulated when they are with her. We couldn't do without her!"

"I have never had any concerns or complaints with the childminding service. If I felt the need to discuss something I would be comfortable discussing this with the childminder. However, I am aware I can raise concerns through registered bodies if there was ever a concern."

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

The childminder should contact the Food Standards Agency to discuss registering with them.

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

This recommendation was made on 22 October 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder confirmed that she had contacted East Dunbartonshire Council to complete the registration process and was told that no visit was required. We were satisfied with the progress made on this recommendation.

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	
18 Sep 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
28 Oct 2010	Announced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
3 Feb 2009	Announced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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