

Stewart, Shona C

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 17 April 2019

Service provided by:
Stewart, Shona C

Service provider number:
SP2004937382

Care service number:
CS2004081599

Introduction

The childminder provides her childminding service from her family farm close to the village of Blackford in Perthshire. The minded children use the ground floor of the house. This consists of a playroom, kitchen and bathroom. The children also have access to the fully enclosed garden to the side of the house. They have some opportunities to spend time with the childminder on the farm seeing the animals and looking at the machinery.

The childminder has aims and objectives for her service which include:

"To provide the children with an exciting safe and stimulating environment. Each child will be treated as an individual taking into account their own needs, interests and developments".

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is less than twelve months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminders own family.

On the day of the inspection there were two small children being cared for. The service was registered with the Care Inspectorate in December 2004.

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), Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection, which took place between 9.30am and 11.45am on 17 April 2019. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate Early Years Inspector.

We gave feedback to the childminder at the end of the inspection. During this inspection we spoke to the childminder and the young children who were present. We observed the care given by the childminder and looked at a number of documents including: 'All About Me' information, health and safety records, and certificates of training.

Views of people using the service

During the inspection we saw that the minded children had a very strong relationship with the childminder. They were confident and played happily in her home. The childminder interacted with the children in a warm and positive way.

We received two completed questionnaires from parents. They both strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care received by their children.

They told us:

- "Shona has great routines in place and that is very important to me".
- "The service Shona provides for my children is great. They love spending time with her".
- "Very happy with the childminder and the service".

Self assessment

The childminder had submitted a self-assessment of her service in advance of the inspection. The information contained in this was helpful during the inspection and in the writing of this report.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a very warm and caring atmosphere for children. She was kind and respectful. She knew the children well and met their individual needs. She developed close relationships with families and their children. She gave opportunities for children to make decisions and choices about what they wanted to do. They had lots of opportunities for growing, cooking and baking. She offered interesting and fun activities both indoors and outside in her large garden.

What the service could do better

We identified areas of recording which needed to be reviewed and updated. It is necessary that all individual information recorded for each child is checked and updated with parents at least every six months. We discussed with the childminder how individual records could be developed. We asked that her information booklet and her policies be updated where appropriate to reflect current guidance and circumstances.

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

From the evidence gathered during the inspection we found that the service was performing to a good standard in this area. The childminder had: 'All About Me' information recorded for each child. We discussed how this information could be further developed and how this should be updated by the childminder at least every six months.

Daily diaries were completed for each of the younger children. Information for the older children was shared verbally. It was clear that the childminder had a good knowledge of each of the children and she met their needs very well. She worked effectively with parents to make sure that routines from home were followed.

We saw that the children were encouraged to make choices about what they wanted to do. Their interests were followed and they were encouraged to be imaginative and creative. The childminder shared photographs of the activities. These were appreciated by both children and their parents.

The childminder was experienced in working with young children and used her knowledge of child development to provide a wide range of activities and experiences for them. She understood the need to provide fun and stimulation which encouraged their language development and their awareness of early number.

She provided fun, learning activities for the older children who attended after school. Children had opportunities for active play outdoors and so were able to practise their physical skills. Younger children were able to socialise at the local parent and toddler group.

The childminder gave choices for snacks and lunches. The children often were involved in cooking and baking. There were opportunities for planting and growing too. This gave children some understanding of where their food came from and how it was prepared. The children had created their own rules for the childminders house. They were very aware of the additional safety rules which were necessary in and around the farmyard.

The childminder understood her role and responsibilities for child protection. She was confident in the signs, symptoms and referral process if she was concerned about a child's welfare. The childminder had an understanding of how to administer any medication safely and had an appropriate recording system in place.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered during the inspection we found that the service was performing to a good standard in this area. From our observations we saw that the childminder's house was clean and organised. She operated a strict no smoking policy. We saw that the house was safe for children. Toys and books were stored in the play room and these could be accessed by children who chose what they wanted. Children were encouraged to take responsibility for tidying when that had finished playing.

The childminder carried out visual checks of the house and garden each day before the arrival of the children. The children were encouraged to think about how they could help to keep themselves safe by following the childminders rules. The childminder also had a good understanding of preventing the spread of infection and used this to protect the health and wellbeing of the children.

The minded children had the opportunity for active play in the fresh air. The childminder's garden was safe for children. It was fully enclosed and had a good range of toys and activities which were appropriate to the age and stage of the children. We saw that the children had been planting bulbs which were now in flower. They watched the childminder gather eggs from the hens and ducks. These activities contributed to their understanding of the natural world.

Information about accidents and incidents was recorded appropriately and shared with parents. A copy was kept by the service and one given to the parent. Children were transported in the childminders car. She had the recommended car seats which were appropriate to the sizes of the children.

We asked that the childminder ensured that clear permission was sought from parents covering all of the activities offered to the children. This should include any car journeys made and use of photographs taken of the children. These should form part of the all about me forms which needed to be reviewed and updated.

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 reviewed the records of individual children, service policies and procedures. We concluded that the childminder performed to a good level in this area.

The childminder was committed to training which had a positive impact on the experiences of the minded children. She was good at keeping her knowledge of early education and childcare up to date. She worked in a local childcare setting and benefited from additional learning which took place there. She regularly updated her core training in: 'Child Protection', 'First Aid' and 'Food Hygiene'. This helped to protect the health and wellbeing of the minded children.

It had been some time since the childminder had fully reviewed and updated her service policies and the information that she shared with parents. She was aware that this was a task which was overdue and she had plans to complete this **(see recommendation 1)**. We advised the childminder that the new care standards which were now available would be helpful to her when reviewing her service and its policies.

The childminder was responsive to the needs of children and their parents. She formed strong relationships with families and spent time each day talking with them. She had an informal way of seeking their views and suggestions about her service. Parents who responded to our questionnaires confirmed that they were happy to give feedback and they were confident that it would be acted on.

The childminder was not registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). We discussed the need for registration given the childminders use of electronic storage of children's videos and photographs. We asked that she investigate this.

From all of the evidence that we saw we concluded that the childminder offered a good service. Parents and children were very happy with the childminder. This was confirmed by the comments in our questionnaire.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The childminder should review the policies and procedures which ensure that children are cared for in a safe and appropriate setting. Updated policies should be shared with parents.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that, "I use a service and organisation which are well led and managed." (HSCS 4.23).

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

Date	Type	Gradings
9 Apr 2015	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 5 - Very good
30 May 2011	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
19 Oct 2010	Announced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
19 Oct 2009	Announced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership Not assessed
28 Aug 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 3 - Adequate

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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