

Kuhn, Donna Child Minding

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

Service provided by:
Kuhn, Donna

Service provider number:
SP2005949390

Care service number:
CS2005102401

Introduction

This service has been registered since January 2006.

Donna Kuhn, referred to as 'the childminder' in this report, is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 8 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of 6 will be under 12, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family.

The service is provided from the childminder's home in a residential area of Grangemouth. The service is near to local schools, nurseries, parks and shops. The children have access to the living room, hall area and kitchen within the home. The securely enclosed gardens to the front and rear of the property provides outdoor play opportunities.

The aims of the service include:

- provision of a warm, secure and safe home environment
- to providing a range of activities to encourage development
- to establishing positive relationships, respecting parents' wishes and confidentiality of information.

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.

Information on SHANARRI can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

What we did during our inspection

Please note that parents and carers will be referred to as parents throughout the report

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection. This was carried out by two Care Inspectorate inspectors. The inspection took place on 17 April 2019 between 09:30 and 11:30. We gave feedback to the childminder on 17 April 2019.

As part of the inspection, we took account of the completed annual return and self assessment forms that we asked the childminder to complete and submit to us.

We sent out four care standards questionnaires for parents prior to our inspection. We received three completed questionnaires from parents before the inspection.

During this inspection we gathered evidence from a number of sources, including the following:

We spoke with:

- the childminder

- parent carers.

We observed and viewed:

- the environment
- the childminder's practice and interactions with children
- the snack routine
- the children playing.

We looked at the following evidence:

- evidence from the most recent self assessment
- children's records
- accident and incident records
- written policies and procedures
- information for parents
- questionnaires
- photographs of children engaging in play activities.

We took account of all of the above information when we evaluated this service and wrote this report.

Views of people using the service

There was one minded younger child (18 months old) present during our visit. When they entered the home they put their arms out to be cuddled by the childminder and were then keen to find play things and explore the living room area. They were happy to communicate with us using developing single words and body gestures. A sense of fun and laughter was evident as the child invited the childminder to join in with imaginative phone call role play games. The childminder was nurturing in her interactions, offering cuddles, encouraging smiles and support when this was needed.

We received three completed questionnaires from parents before the inspection took place. They were all very happy with the service they received. They told us:

"From the get go Donna has always asked and done what we have asked in relation to childcare".

"She has folders with my child's progress and is made available to me at any point of request".

"It is always healthy nutritious food, like fruit and veg. She gives Weetabix for breakfast which my child loves".

"Donna keeps to our routines where possible. We are trying new routines with the help of Donna. She is always at playgroups to allow my child to interact with other children".

"All toys and equipment are well laid out and in appropriate boxes".

"Donna takes kids to the local parks on nice days and when not so nice she takes them to local soft play".

"In the first instance we would bring it to Donna's attention (raising complaints). Luckily I have never had to make any complaints".

"If there are any planned changes, Donna lets us know in plenty of time before the change is due to happen".

"Donna is an incredible childminder. I am so glad we used Donna (prior child went to a private nursery). I am so glad we have opted for Donna she is extremely helpful, even if it is just a bit of advice. She is always there even if it is just to listen. Her pricing is extremely fair and in line with other childminders. We are more than delighted with her service".

"Questionnaires, views filled in when registered, which have been reviewed".

"Provides home-made soup, healthy snacks which have been discussed previously".

"Walking to and from school when possible, play time with lots of toys, also art and craft activities and outings".

"Main door always locked, stair gate on, toys are boxed when not in use and supervised when using art and crafts".

"Regularly takes kids to the park and encourages outdoor play in secure garden area".

"Childminder always informs us of slight change to routine, new children joining the service and asks for our input".

"When my child is under Donna's care, I do not worry as I know it is a safe environment and they are happy and well cared for".

"Donna is a great childminder and has been so helpful to me and my family".

Self assessment

We received a completed self assessment from the childminder. The self assessment gave some examples of service strengths for each theme. This could be further developed to show any areas identified for service improvements. More consideration could be given to the wellbeing indicators and the Health and Social Care Standards to support outcomes for children.

What the service did well

The childminder had a friendly and relaxed manner where children were encouraged to have fun and be creative. This ensured children were supported, nurtured and encouraged to achieve and feel a sense of wellbeing.

What the service could do better

The childminder should now ensure that she gains a good understanding of the wellbeing indicators and how they are applied in practice. By doing this she will be able to evaluate her service more easily and recognise areas for improvement more readily.

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 was experienced and worked in partnership with parents to provide a homely and nurturing service. Responding appropriately to a parent's request had supported children's health and wellbeing. For instance, rearranging a child's sleep pattern in line with that at home had supported a consistent and familiar care routine. This helped to reassure and settle the child back into the service after a short break over the Christmas period. Parents told us, "Donna is extremely helpful, even if it is just to give a bit of advice and is always there to listen". This helped to maintain trusting and valued relationships which supported the best possible outcomes for children.

Children's play preferences were gathered through the use of formal questionnaires and daily chats with parents and children. We could see that younger children were consulted through parent requests and independent access to a variety of stage appropriate toys. Older children were challenged through access to complex construction toys and a range of art and craft materials. The childminder told us she offered children structured play, for example setting out art and craft card making materials, along with child led play experiences. This ensured children had choice and opportunities to engage in meaningful play experiences.

During our visit we saw that the young child present was confident, happy and vocal in our company. We were invited to join in with play ideas through their smiles, gestures and developing vocabulary. This told us they were happy, had a sense of belonging and felt safe in the home. The childminder supported the child's developing language through the use of body gestures, repetitive language and appropriate time for responses. It was evident by the giggles and laughs that both the child and childminder were having fun together. Respecting, responding effectively and involving children in this way contributed to feelings of being included and loved.

Infection control procedures were adhered to through effective hand washing routines and management of childhood illnesses, for example following advisory exclusion periods. Road safety opportunities during walks to and from school supported children to think about risks, for example speed and distance of road vehicles. This supported children's learning about being safe, healthy and responsible.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Two large clear storage units housed a range of exciting play items which children could see into and accessed independently. We observed that the childminder had provided a wide range of interesting writing materials such as, chalk, felt tip pens, paint brushes, crayons, coloured pencils, sugar paper, card and foam drawing mats. These ensured children were encouraged to be creative with and have fun with early mark making, writing and drawing experiences. This enhanced early literacy skills (reading, writing, talking, listening) and promoted a love of story telling.

The childminder made good use of her local community and provided opportunities to be active, social and explore nature. For example, children visited the local duck pond to investigate plant life and different types of mini beasts. Regular visits to the local parks and soft play supported children to develop skills in, climbing, crawling, jumping, balancing and swinging. Toddler group sessions offered opportunities to build new friendships and be involved in different types of play. Being active in the local community enhanced children's sense of belonging, promoted a sense of wonder in the world around them and encouraged skills and learning.

Very good cleanliness and organisation within the home resulted in a safe and pleasant environment where children could independently choose their toys. Cleaning routines were carried out weekly by an employed cleaner. The hallway was free of clutter and children's play items were well organised within designated containers. This would ensure hazards of tripping or falling were minimised in the event of an emergency exit. The childminder was aware of her responsibility to protect children in her care and had recently updated training on child protection and first aid. Parents could be confident that the service was mindful of how to keep children safe and healthy.

Although children had access to a wide range of toys we suggested more open-ended loose part play to enhance creative thinking, problem solving skills and new learning. Loose parts are every day materials (bottle tops, lids, pipes, cones, corks, scarves, tins) that children can move, manipulate, control and experiment with during play. This would offer them endless opportunities to explore possibilities of materials and learn by trial and error. The childminder was keen to develop this within her service to further extend play experiences for children.

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 personal plans for each child and stored their information securely and confidentially. This included child record forms, permissions forms for taking on outings, taking photographs and giving medication when instructed to do so by parents. Personal Liability, childminding insurance was valid, as was business use car insurance. The childminder was aware that she had to notify us on the event of any changes to her service. We were satisfied that systems were in place to keep children safe.

The childminder had a range of policies in place which were shared with parents when they began to use the service. Record keeping systems were easy to follow and up-to-date, for example, register of times in and out of the service and days children attended. This ensured us that the childminder operated within her terms of her registration in regard to the ratio of children. This would make families confident and reassure them that the service is managed by an organised and experienced person.

The childminder had some knowledge of the wellbeing indicators and was beginning to use these in practice. (There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of "Getting it Right for Every Child": safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included). Since the last inspection the childminder had developed photograph books which documented children's learning activities and experiences. Appropriate links had been made to the wellbeing indicators. We asked that the childminder considered how she further developed the personal story to include the child's comments and views about play and learning. Putting the child at the centre of documenting their learning story would make stories personal, lasting, rich and meaningful.

As a member of the Scottish Childminding Association and other organisations the childminder had been able to access training. Meeting regularly with other childminders helped her to reflect upon current practice and national childcare matters. Training records were dated and organised. However, we would encourage the childminder to record her new learning from training and professional reading and any changes to practice as a result of this. She would then be able to better measure the impact this has on her service and thinking. This would ensure the service is managed by a reflective person who continues to improve outcomes for children and families.

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	
27 Apr 2017	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
5 Jun 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
27 Aug 2009	Announced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
11 Sep 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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