

Crichton, Jane Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 14 May 2019

Service provided by:
Crichton, Jane

Service provider number:
SP2004918898

Care service number:
CS2004080264

Introduction

This service has been registered since 27 April 2005.

Jane Crichton, referred to as the childminder throughout this report, provides a small childminding service. The care service may be provided to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 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 children of the childminder's family. Numbers are inclusive of children in the childminder's family.

Other conditions of registration:

Overnight care will not be provided.

The service will be provided at the address detailed in the notice.

The childminder provides the service from her home in Grangemouth operating on the ground floor. Children were able to move freely around the playroom, conservatory and the garden. They used the lounge if watching a movie and had access to the downstairs toilet. The local community provided opportunities for children to be active and to socialise with their peers.

The main aims of the service include:

"I will provide childcare for children of the ages 6 months up to 12 years in a family environment in my own home. I will ensure I provide a clean comfortable safe and caring environment where children can feel happy and relaxed. I will establish a good relationship with the children and their parents and strive to meet all the needs of the children in my care." A full statement of aims and objectives is available from the service on request.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). This is 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 GIRFEC. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators. Information on SHANARRI can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following a short notice inspection. This was carried out by one Early Learning and childcare inspector on Tuesday 14 May 2019. We visited between 12:45 and 14:00. We provided feedback to the childminder at the end of the inspection process.

As part of the inspection, we took account of the annual return and the self-assessment that we asked the childminder to complete and submit to us. We sent three care standard questionnaires asking the childminder to distribute them to parents. One family returned a completed questionnaire to us.

During the inspection we gathered evidence from several sources, including the following:

We spoke with:

- the three children present
- the childminder.

We observed and viewed:

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

We looked at the following evidence:

- children's records.
- a sample of policies and procedures
- administration of medication records
- photographs of children's experiences
- accident incident recording format
- registration certificate
- Public liability and motor insurance certificates.

We took account of the above information when we evaluated the service and wrote this report. Please note that parents and carers will be referred to as parents throughout the report.

Views of people using the service

The three children present were able to tell us about the range of activities that they enjoyed and that supported them to achieve. For example, the older children included the younger child in the board game explaining the rules and giving encouragement and support. The children told us that they regularly talked about healthy eating and were included in preparing snack and talking about the positive effect that healthy foods had on their bodies. They told us that they were active at the park and in the garden, that they went swimming and that the childminder helped them with learning including tying shoe laces. The children told us that they had talked about the use of their mobile phones and had agreed that they would not use them in the service. They said they stayed safe by wearing seat belts in the car and car seats and had emergency procedures in place if they got lost.

One completed care standard questionnaire was returned by a parent who said that, overall, they strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care their child received in the service. They described methods of communication that ensured information was shared about the changing needs of the child and that the child's progress in the service was shared with them. They said that the child benefitted from a range of activities and experiences that supported them to achieve. For example, a consistent approach to toilet training was supporting the child to achieve developmental milestones and being outdoors supported the child to socialise with other children and to be active. The child was developing confidence as a result.

Self assessment

Every year childminders must complete a 'self-assessment' form telling us how their service is performing. We check to make sure this assessment is accurate.

What the service did well

The childminder worked closely with parents to agree the care and support for children that met their changing needs. She listened to parents, acted on their wishes and provided support and advice as required. The childminder included parents and children when reviewing and developing the quality of the service. They felt valued and had a sense of belonging as a result. This meant that outcomes for children were improving and they were benefitting from quality experiences. For example, it was recognised that children having access to their mobile phones was a barrier to them being fully engaged in the service. Following a consultation process it was agreed that children would not use their phones in the service. A homely environment with comfortable areas supported children to relax and achieve through a range of fun activities.

What the service could do better

The childminder knew children well and provided care and support that focussed on next steps agreed in consultation with parents. We discussed how the detail in the personal plan could be developed and how children could be included in their development. The childminder had a knowledge and understanding of the benefits of children having access to the natural environment and the use of loose parts and natural resources. She aimed to continue to develop open-ended play opportunities for children. We discussed ways that the childminder could develop self-evaluation in the service sign posting her to good practice guidance that will support this.

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 respected the role of each parent working closely with them to agree the care and support that met the changing needs of the children. She listened to them, acted on their wishes and provided support and advice when needed. Parents felt valued and included as a result. Having a very good knowledge and understanding of the individual needs of the children meant that the childminder could plan the service so that she focussed on the next steps agreed with parents. Taking account of children's interests and preferences meant that there were opportunities for children to achieve. We discussed how the detail in the personal plan could be extended to tell the story of each child's journey in the service through for example, recording next steps and progress made as a result of their experiences.

Children were supported to make healthy lifestyle choices through developing an understanding of the benefits of eating a healthy diet, being active outdoors and through regular tooth brushing. Involvement in daily tasks, including taking part in cooking activities and preparing snacks, meant children were becoming responsible and engaging in meaningful activities that supported them to develop life skills. The children said that they weighed and measured the ingredients when cooking and helped to wash and dry the dishes. On the day of our visit the

children sat together in the kitchen enjoying homemade soup and fresh fruit recognising that this was a healthy snack. They were being supported to develop healthy eating habits and a healthy relationship with food.

The childminder took steps to protect the children in her care meeting their health, welfare and safety needs. She demonstrated a knowledge and understanding of child protection, appropriately recorded accidents and incidents and had formats in place to record the administration of medication.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 – very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

A homely environment with comfortable areas supported children to relax and achieve through a range of fun activities. Children had access to toys and resources that suited their ages and stages of development. For example, the children attending after school quickly became engaged in a board game. The older children were confident and supportive when respectfully explaining the rules of the game to a younger child. The children felt a sense of belonging in the family home and had opportunities to achieve and develop a variety of skills.

The childminder provided opportunities for children to have the freedom to explore the outdoor environment. They were supported to develop confidence and resilience when pond dipping, den building, tree climbing and when on swimming trips. The childminder had a knowledge and understanding of the benefits of children having access to the natural environment and having access to loose parts and natural resources. She aimed to continue to develop these open-ended play opportunities for the children in her care.

The childminder managed her environment well to promote children's safety and wellbeing. For example, she carried out risk assessments and put measures in place to reduce hazards. She was aware of good practice in infection control and promoted good hand hygiene with the children. We saw that resources were clean, safe and suitable for the different stages and interests of children attending the service. This contributed to children's health and wellbeing.

The childminder was aware of good practice guidance that supports evaluation and development of the environment and experiences for children. We have referenced some of the guidance as follows:

My World Outdoors – available at www.hub.careinspectorate.com
 Loose Parts Play – available at www.inspiringscotland.org.uk
 Our creative journey available at www.hub.careinspectorate.com

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 very good knowledge and understanding of child development. She was sensitive to the individual needs of children and worked closely with parents to agree how best to support the children to achieve. She demonstrated a kind, caring and compassionate approach with the children helping them to feel valued and included in the service.

The childminder continued to access relevant training, had professional dialogue with other childminders and read relevant publications. This meant that she was aware of current practice and reflected on and improved the quality of the service and outcomes for children. For example, she had reflected on behaviour management and had changed the strategies used to support children. With the focus being on a restorative approach it meant that children were becoming more responsible and respectful towards one another. Consultation with parents and sharing her learning as a result of her continued professional development reassured families and gave them confidence that the service was managed well and that children's wellbeing was supported.

The childminder included parents and children when reviewing and developing the quality of the service. This meant that they felt valued, listened to and had a sense of belonging. As a result, outcomes for children were improving and they were benefitting from quality experiences. For instance, it was recently agreed that children would not use their mobile phone in the service. It was felt that the phones were a barrier to children being fully engaged in the range of activities available. The children said that they were taking part in the activities instead of sitting playing games on their phones. They understood the importance of being active and included in the service. The wellbeing wheel was used to consult with children about their outcomes as a result of their experiences. They were becoming confident when thinking about how their experiences supported them to be safe, healthy, active, nurtured, respected, responsible and included. We discussed ways that self-evaluation could be further developed and sign posted the childminder to good practice guidance that will support this process:

Your Childminding Journey available at www.childmindingjourney.scot
My Childminding Experience available at www.hub.careinspectorate.com
National Health and Social Care Standards - available at www.scot.gov.uk

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	
28 Apr 2015	3	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed 5 - Very good
30 May 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed
2 Jun 2010	Announced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent Not assessed 5 - Very good Not assessed
5 Feb 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent 6 - Excellent Not assessed

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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