

The Wright Childcare Child Minding

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)
Inspection completed on: 30 July 2019

Service provided by:
Mhairi Wright trading as The Wright
Childcare

Service provider number:
SP2006961336

Care service number:
CS2006134725

Introduction

The service has been registered since April 2007.

Mrs Wright 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 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own family.

The service operates from the family home in Dunipace. It is in close proximity to local schools, nurseries and local amenities. The securely enclosed, spacious and well equipped garden to the rear of the property provides children with an inviting and safe outdoor play area. Indoors children have access to a designated playroom, a large kitchen/dining area, front living room and cloakroom/toilet.

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

We wrote this report following a short notice announced full inspection. This was carried out by a Care Inspectorate inspector. The inspection took place on 30 July 2019 between 13:30 and 15:30. We gave feedback to the childminder on 30 July 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 one completed questionnaire from parents before the inspection.

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

We spoke with:

- the children
- the childminder.

We observed and viewed:

- the environment
- the childminder's practice and interactions with children
- 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 from parents
- children's personal scrapbooks
- the childminder's training records
- child protection information.

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

Views of people using the service

The children present were relaxed, vocal and playing happily together. The older children particularly enjoyed drawing and making cards. One younger child received cuddles and warm interactions from the childminder.

We sent four care standards questionnaires to parents of children who attend the childminder service and received one completed questionnaire before the inspection took place. They were happy with the service they received. They told us:

"An excellent service is provided by the childminder. I am confident and happy that my child is well cared for whilst there. It is evident that the childminder has a good relationship with all the children in her care. I would not hesitate to recommend her to others".

Children during the visit told us:

"We go to play parks and play in the garden".

"I like colouring in and painting".

"We play snakes and ladders".

"We make empire biscuits".

"We tell the childminder if we are sad".

"We sit on the couch if we are sleepy".

Self assessment

We received a fully completed self assessment from the childminder. We were satisfied with the way this was completed and with the relevant information included. The self assessment gave some examples of service strengths and highlighted new developments made since the last inspection visit. For example, the introduction of a 'calm box' to support emotional wellbeing, new information added to care plans to support partnership working and new policies had been developed to adhere to new guidance and legislation to keep children safe.

What the service did well

Children were happy and confident in the care of the childminder. She nurtured their needs and knew them well as individuals. The home was bright, clean and inviting and offered a variety of play experiences that children could independently select.

What the service could do better

To further enhance the very high standard of practice in the service, we asked the childminder to consider additional play materials to promote open-ended creative and imaginative play.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
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

Children were being cared for by a highly experienced and nurturing childminder who respected each child as an individual. They received appropriate age and stage play experiences which ensured they were supported to build positive relationships with each other and learn new skills. For example, a "calm box" made in partnership with one child supported emotional wellbeing and inclusion. In addition, story books were used effectively to address children's fears, their understanding of different family types and their developing listening and talking skills. It was clear through our conversations and observations of well documented play opportunities that the childminder took time and care when responding to children's interests, needs and wellbeing. This high level of individualised attention encouraged them to achieve and helped them to feel respected and loved.

The childminder worked very effectively with parents to find out more about each child as an individual. This information informed and improved her practice and was used effectively to ensure care routines such as eating and sleeping patterns were consistent with home and parents' "wishes". Children were consulted when purchasing new play items. Discussions about budgets helped them to be responsible and gave them a good understanding of the meaning and value of money. The childminder told us that when selecting a movie to watch, children were encouraged to think of others and make joint decisions. One child told us, "We all pick a movie, we vote, that is a good way". Including children and families in the life of the service valued them as partners, helped to make meaningful improvements to the service and supported positive relationships.

Awareness and knowledge of best practice guidance such as, 'Getting it Right for Every Child' (GIRFEC), was evident from the display information, the childminder's interactions with children and our conversations. Children's personal achievements were recognised and celebrated within their scrapbook folders. For example, independently putting on shoes and coats for the first time and forming the letters within their name. We could tell children had ownership of their scrapbook folders through their excited chats with us about their many play opportunities and experiences. For instance, obvious delight in remembering days, such as, sledging in the

snow, trips to the woods and making sun catchers. Well documented play and learning experiences helped them to feel a sense of pride, encouraged them to think about new learning goals and supported them to reach their full potential.

The childminder supported children in managing age appropriate risks and looking out for dangers. Fire drills enhanced fire safety awareness. She was mindful of involving children in fire drill routines to promote interest and deeper thinking in safety measures. For instance, children were encouraged to role play different fire safety scenarios and how this would affect their exit routes. Involving children in this way told us that the childminder was creative in her practice and offered children real life experiences to support them to be responsible and keep safe.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 – excellent

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Very good cleanliness and organisation within the home resulted in a safe and pleasant environment where children could independently choose their toys. Children had personal space to store their belongings from home. This would ensure they felt a sense of belonging. Procedures were in place for infection control for example regular and robust cleaning routines and adhering to exclusion times for infectious diseases. The childminder was aware of her responsibility to protect children in her care and kept up-to-date with training on child protection, pediatric first aid and safer sleeping guidance from the "Scottish Cot Death Trust". This contributed to children's all round health and wellbeing.

The childminder made good use of the local community and this engaged children in different types of play and provided opportunities for them to learn new skills and become familiar with their local area. Regular trips to Wellfield barn, local toddler group, library/book bug sessions, near by woods and soft play provided opportunities for children to access fresh air, to enjoy energetic and exciting play and to explore the natural environment. Children could talk to us about road safety measures during these outings, they told us, "We need to hold hands" and "Hold on to the buggy to keep safe". These experiences enhanced children's connections with the world around them and encouraged them to think about their personal safety in different environments.

Two designated play areas with one leading to a well equipped garden provided exciting and challenging play opportunities. A full length window from one play area, allowed smaller children to observe nature, for example, changes in the weather and seasons. The play things available for children were age appropriate and helped them achieve. A large table with ample seating encouraged social group games. Clear floor space was available for indoor active play and construction games, such as Lego/Duplo. Thought provoking art materials encouraged children to explore textures, techniques and design ideas. Older children had a nurturing space for

quiet uninterrupted time. Indoor and outdoor learning experiences provided a rich environment for exploratory play and learning.

The childminder had positive links with the local primary school and nursery class and visited these regularly. She had fostered good relationships with school staff and systems were in place for sharing significant information to support children and families. This ensured working parents were kept up-to-date with school events and it also supported consistent working between the childminding service, school and home. The childminder attended events such as, sports day and end of term celebrations. Working in this way developed trusting and nurturing relationships where people felt safe to share important information to support the best possible outcomes 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

Meeting up with the local childminder group regularly resulted in opportunities to share best practice and engage in professional dialogue to improve outcomes for families. Being a member of the Scottish Childminding Association helped the childminder to access training and she kept up-to-date with best practice by accessing relevant websites such as the Care Inspectorate Hub. Joined up working with Falkirk Council regarding the national expansion plans for Early Childcare and Learning supported best practice and displayed the childminders commitment to providing the best possible outcomes for children.

The childminder had recently researched 'Food Matters' the Care Inspectorate best practice document which gives clear messages about the importance of children getting well-balanced, nutritious food in a supportive, nurturing environment. The impact of this is she now thinks more about the amount of sugar in different snack items. Seeking out and researching new guidance helped the childminder to reflect on her practice and make changes to enable children to adopt positive relationships with food from a young age.

Although a wide variety of play items were available to children, we suggested more open-ended play items would enhance creativity and imagination. For example, dressing up play opportunities could include, scarves, hats, fans and other interesting props to encourage children to think independently and create their own characters and story lines. The childminder was keen to take on our advice to enhance this type of play.

Record keeping systems were in place, clear 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 registration regarding the ratio of children. This would make families confident and reassure them that the service is managed by an organised and observant person.

We could see from our visit children were happy, vocal and played well together due to a quality learning and play experience from this dedicated, passionate and self-motivated childminder. We spoke about the importance of remaining engaged with the best practice guidance and training to ensure that the experiences offered to children continue to be meaningful, rich and of the highest quality.

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
13 Jul 2017	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 5 - Very good
25 Aug 2015	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 5 - Very good
21 Aug 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
3 Nov 2011	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
2 Dec 2009	Announced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
8 Dec 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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