

Henderson, Shona

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 25 July 2019

Service provided by:
Henderson, Shona

Service provider number:
SP2003906098

Care service number:
CS2003037780

Introduction

Shona Henderson, referred to as the childminder throughout this report registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

Shona Henderson is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of eight children under sixteen years, of whom a maximum of six will be under twelve years, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under twelve months. These numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family.

She delivers her childminding service from her home in a quiet residential area of Edinburgh. The areas used to provide her service are the lounge, downstairs bathroom, hall and access to the kitchen. There is an enclosed garden to the back of the property.

The aim of the service is;

"To provide a safe, warm and child centred environment in my home and offer a flexible service which provides for the health and happiness of the children in my care and to treat children as individuals."

What we did during our inspection

We carried out an unannounced inspection on 25 June 2019. On the day of inspection there were four minded children present. All four children were of primary school age.

During the inspection we observed the interactions between the childminder and the children. We spoke to the childminder about the service she provided and observed children during play. We walked around all areas of the home used by minded children. We looked at the resources available and the use of space. We looked at relevant paperwork and documents related to the service and the children who used it. We discussed the childminders policies and procedures, as well as looking at any quality assurance paperwork.

Views of people using the service

We observed children active and engaged with activities. They were confident in chatting to us and telling us of the activities they liked to play with which included swingball and drawing.

We spoke to one parent during the inspection who told us:

"The childminder is great with my children and manages all their after-school activities, they would not be able to attend without her organisation".

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment prior to the inspection. We looked at quality assurance paperwork and discussed with the childminder her areas for development and improvement.

What the service did well

The childminder had a warm and nurturing approach in making children feel included and respected. Children were provided with a good range of experiences with an appropriate balance between activities that were home based and those in the local community.

What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to access best practice guidance to support the development of the service and maintain positive outcomes for children. Children would benefit from more opportunities to explore open-ended materials within their play. This would further develop their natural curiosity and inquiry skills.

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	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Children presented as happy, confident and relaxed in the care of the childminder, who offered a warm caring approach in making children feel nurtured and secure.

The childminder knew the children well and had built up trusting and open relationships with them. She held all relevant information for them in personal plans. These informed of how to meet children's individual needs and interests and were reviewed regularly with parents. This meant there was a consistency of care from home, and parents felt included in their child's care.

Children were provided with a range of opportunities and experiences that were easily accessible. We saw children moving freely between the indoor and outdoor spaces, having opportunities to be active, relaxed and restful. This meant children were able to make their own choices of where and when they wanted to play. This supported them in helping to develop their decision-making skills and independence.

The childminder applied 'house rules' that promoted positive behaviour and encouraged kindness and respect. We saw examples of this in the way the children communicated and cooperated with each other. Clear friendships had been made between the children and they spent most of their time enjoying group activities together. The childminder supported children as appropriate and offered them lots of praise and encouragement.

Children's learning and achievements were recorded through developmental milestone records. The childminder reflected on these and identified further opportunities for children. These were incorporated into her weekly plan. The plan was inclusive of children's ideas and interests and often carried forward school projects. Children gave us a recent example of this in the theme of the rainforest. The childminder had accessed the internet with the children to find out more about the theme and had provided materials for creative art ideas and drawing.

Children were encouraged to form healthy lifestyles in a range of ways including healthy eating. The childminder always had a range of fresh fruit available for children in addition to snacks provided by parents. Discussion was encouraged during snack times to promote healthy eating and support children's positive future eating habits.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Children benefited from the warm and welcoming environment that the childminder provided. It was comfortable and well maintained and we saw children relaxed and confident in moving around spaces available to them. Free flow between the house and garden gave children choice and developed their decision-making skills and independence.

The childminder was clear of her responsibilities to keep children safe. She carried out daily risk assessments and followed best practice guidance in managing and minimising the risk and spread of infection. Children routinely showed good hand washing practice, after toileting, before eating and after the handling of the childminder's pets.

Children had access to a range of resources and activities to support their interests and needs. We saw children enjoying playing in the garden playing swing ball. They were active and energetic laughing and having fun as they negotiated turn taking. We discussed with the childminder the benefits of open-ended play materials and how she could develop this area of play further. Open ended materials are materials that can be used in multiple ways. They encourage and stimulate children's creativity and imagination.

In working in partnership with parents, the childminder supported children to attend a range of after school activities clubs and sessions. This meant that children were able to follow their own interests and ideas. One parent commented that her children wouldn't be able to attend all the activities they enjoy without the "support and great organisation skills" of the childminder. The childminder also worked in partnership with the children's schools to support the effective transition for children at the end of the school day.

The childminder understood the importance of outdoor play in building children's confidence and increasing the quality of their learning experience. She offered regular opportunities for children to be outdoors and included in the local community. They accessed local parks and play parks. One child told us that they liked the skate park. Local walks offered opportunities to be outside in the fresh air learn about nature and the world around them.

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 all relevant policies and procedures in place to promote the effective delivery of the service and to support children's wellbeing. These were shared with parents prior to children starting and were reviewed and updated regularly. For example, the childminder had incorporated the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) procedure into her existing data protection policy. This stated how to confidentially store children's records.

As a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) the childminder had access to best practice guidance and legislation thorough their website and publications. She was aware of the Care Inspectorate Hub and we discussed the benefits of accessing it regularly to source documents, resources, current initiatives and research. This would help her to keep abreast of best practice to enhance and support the positive outcomes for children.

The childminder had a clear understanding of her role and responsibilities to keep children safe. She spoke confidently and was able to demonstrate how she would address any concerns relating to child protection. However, to support her in her role we discussed with the childminder that she should access child protection training to keep her knowledge current.

Children and parents were included and consulted in the development of the service. Activities and experiences were planned through children's ideas and suggestions. The service was evaluated with parents both informally and formally. Daily contact with parents by phone, text and during picks up times meant that they could share their views and ideas.

Questionnaires were sent out yearly and views gathered informed how to improve and further develop the service. This promoted a sense of inclusion and respect between the children, parents and the childminder.

The parent we spoke to told us she was very happy with the service the childminder offered. She said she would be confident in speaking to the childminder to share her views or any concerns. She told us that the childminder was "great and always very organised and planned, she is my rock".

The childminder demonstrated a professional and committed approach to her childminding service. She was confident in meeting children's needs and demonstrated good knowledge of child development.

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

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 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
16 Jun 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
2 Feb 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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