

Russell, Brenda Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 31 July 2019

Service provided by:
Russell, Brenda

Service provider number:
SP2009972855

Care service number:
CS2009193714

Introduction

The service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

Brenda Russell referred to as 'the childminder' in this report, is the provider. She may provide a service to a maximum of six children aged under 16 years of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school, and no more than one is under 12 months of age. These numbers are inclusive of the children of the childminder's family. No overnight care may be provided.

The service is provided from the childminder's home in Kirkcaldy. The conditions of registration allow the whole of the premises to be used. Children are mainly cared for in the open plan conservatory/lounge and dining area. Local facilities including the school can easily be accessed on foot, or by means of a short car journey.

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 GIRFEC. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an announced inspection visit on Wednesday 31 July 2019 between 9.30 and 12.00. This followed an unannounced visit on Monday 22 July which was unsuccessful as no children were present. A Care Inspectorate Early Years Inspector carried out the inspection. We provided feedback to the childminder during the inspection visit.

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

We sent three care standard questionnaires to the childminder to distribute to parents of children who used the service. Two were returned to us. We also chatted to two parents when they dropped off their children.

In this inspection we gathered evidence from various sources, including the following:

- discussion with the childminder
- children's comments and feedback from parents
- sample of children's records
- observation of the interaction between the childminder and minded children
- observation of the childminding environment and toys.

Views of people using the service

At the time of inspection, there were nine children registered to use the service. All of these children attended part-time. On the day we visited, the childminder was caring for five children. The children were happy and relaxed in the childminder's care.

Two parents who returned a questionnaire to us indicated they were very happy about the level of care and support they and their children received. We also chatted to two parents when they dropped off their children. Comments included the following:

"My childminder is really committed, caring and totally involved in my children's day to day lives; they are happy, calm, safe and I can confidently say she is a childminder because she loves kids and gets involved in their lives making their time with her memorable, always something to tell, always smiles and she encourages good manners and kindness."

"House is always very clean and tidy. Toys are easily accessed and stored in units for the children. These range from baby age (rattles, music) to teenagers (computer games) lovely sensory toys, tents etc. These are changed frequently or brought out if requested by a child. Outdoor area is great, easily accessed and secure."

Self assessment

The childminder returned a self assessment telling us about how the service operates to meet the needs of the children and their families. The information contained in the self assessment reflected what we found at inspection. We were therefore satisfied with the information provided.

What the service did well

The particular strength of this service was the childminder's nurturing and inclusive approach to caring for children. She provided a very high standard of care and support to the children and their families, working together to provide continuity in their care, ensuring the best outcomes for the children. Her links within the local community helped her to enhance experiences for the children.

What the service could do better

The childminder hopes to attend first aid training to help ensure that children receive appropriate care in the event of an accident.

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

The childminder provided a flexible and supportive service which met the needs of children who attended and their parents.

The childminder had been caring for the children of her minded families for several years. She knew the children well and could talk knowledgeably about their individual needs and interests and how these had changed over time. Children were happy and relaxed because they had developed close attachments with the childminder. When new children joined her service, she recognised the importance of an individualised settling in process. This was planned around the child's needs to ensure a happy transition from home.

Meaningful information sharing was an integral part of the service. Daily discussions took place with parents and this meant that up to date information, from home and the service, was shared. Good communication also meant the children experienced continuity of care, thereby ensuring they felt safe and secure. A parent commented: "I really feel Brenda knows my child and adapts her approach accordingly. She is flexible, caring and communicates so well."

The childminder had a very good understanding of child development and used this knowledge to provide activities to support children to progress and achieve. She involved the children in deciding what they wanted to do. In partnership with parents she had developed personal plans which described how children's development and interests would be supported. These were linked to the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators. Children's needs were reviewed to ensure the care they received was right for them.

Children's health was supported by the childminder ensuring they spent time outdoors each day. Children were encouraged to eat healthily. Parents commented, "I love that Brenda is introducing new foods to my child." and "Brenda is always aware of my children's preferences. She always encourages my children to try new and healthy meals with a very caring attitude".

The childminder was confident in her role and extremely nurturing towards the children who were happy and settled in her care. She engaged positively with the children and was suitably attentive to their needs. Children had benefited from this inclusive and loving environment.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 - excellent

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder had moved house since our last inspection. The layout and organisation of her new home was child-centred and offered children space to play freely and move around. Children were mainly cared for in the open plan conservatory, lounge and dining area. A parent, told us, "My children love to read and the childminder provides them with a calm and quiet space for this, and when it is time to move, her space is safe and allows my children to experience and enjoy physical activities along with fun activities."

Children had benefited from having good access to toys and activities which promoted their learning and development. The well resourced garden had been adapted to meet the individual needs of the children who attended the service.

The childminder was very aware of the children's abilities and made sure that the areas used for childminding purposes were safe, clean and smoke free for them to play. Appropriate systems were in place to record accidents and parents would be asked to sign completed records. The childminder told us about her intention to update her first aid training to help ensure that children receive appropriate care in the event of an accident.

Appropriate resources were used to maintain effective hygiene and minimise the risk of infection. The childminder supported children to learn good hand washing practices. This helped ensure children remained healthy.

The childminder confirmed that she had purchased public liability insurance. This may provide some protection to the childminder and to families, in the event of any accidents.

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 lot of experience in caring for children and working with parents. She was well informed and committed to achieving the best outcomes, she could, for families, making sure children were safe, healthy, active, nurtured, felt respected and included.

As a member of the Scottish Child Minding Association, the childminder received regular updates about childminding matters. A record was in place of the training the childminder had attended, this helped to support families. She was part of the supportive networks within the local community whom she looked to for advice and guidance. Interaction between the childminder and minded children was of a very high quality and we saw that the children were happy and content in her care.

An established record keeping system assisted the childminder to manage her service effectively. There was written information about the service for parents. Children were safeguarded because the childminder was aware of her obligation to share any concerns about a child's welfare with the social work service or police.

Parents who returned our questionnaires or spoke to us felt that they and their children had been consulted and could influence what was provided. This supported the childminder in providing a high standard of care to children. In this way the childminder included and respected the families and children. It was clear from discussion with the childminder and feedback from parents that she had played a valuable role in some of their lives for several years.

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 Aug 2015 | Unannounced | Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment 6 - Excellent Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 6 - Excellent |
| 20 Sep 2011 | Announced (short notice) | Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed |
| 24 May 2010 | Announced (short notice) | Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed |

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànanan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.