

Stay 'n' Play Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 2 September 2019

Service provided by:
Irene Harle trading as Stay'n'Play
Childcare

Service provider number:
SP2003901275

Care service number:
CS2003002791

Introduction

Irene Harle trading as Stay 'n' Play is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of eight children under 16 at one time of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The service is provided from the childminder's family home, situated in a residential area of Monifieth. There is a large enclosed garden with a good off-road parking area for parents. The children have access to the lounge, kitchen and the toilet on the ground floor. The childminder's home is within easy access to the local schools, nurseries and amenities such as the library, community centre and various parks.

The service registered with the Care Inspectorate in April 2011.

The aims of the service include:

- providing a child-centred home in which children will gain confidence in their intellectual, emotional, physical and social skills;
- providing children with a warm, secure and caring environment where they can learn, grow and develop.

What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection which took place between 09:30 and 11:40 on Monday 2 September 2019. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate Inspector.

During this inspection we spoke with the childminder, and the minded children present. We observed the care given by the childminder, her interactions with the minded children and looked at a number of documents including children's information, health and safety records and training evaluations.

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.

Views of people using the service

There were two minded children present, one just over two years six months and one just under two years six months. Both children were happy, settled and relaxed in the childminder's home and around the childminder. They played together, having fun with imaginative play and involving the childminder as they wished in their play.

We sent Care Standards Questionnaires to the childminder to distribute to parents. Parents returned the completed questionnaires, commenting positively about the childminder and her service.

They told us:

"We as a family, couldn't be happier with Irene's service. It's a real family feel and my children are a part of her family. Irene attends school events for my children and even went to my youngest child's nursery summer party/open afternoon as we were both working. Irene genuinely loves the children as they do her and we couldn't wish for any more. She is responsible for teaching both my children number recognition which we were very surprised/happy with! She makes learning so fun!"

"I am really pleased with the service from Irene. She is very professional, dedicated and very caring towards my daughter. She is so happy with her and never wants to leave. Every day is different. Irene spends a lot of time preparing and organising activities, role play, crafts, outside, water play, dressing up, imaginative activities and so on. I receive a diary (detailed) of the day's activities along with photos of my daughter. Irene produces a scrapbook at the end of the term. It captures lots of great memories - I am able to comment about her progress. The service Irene provides is 1st class. I would fully recommend her to others and I am delighted my daughter is at Stay n Play."

"Irene is not just our childminder she is very much part of our family. Both of my children love attending Irene's setting and rarely want to leave. She is an important part of their lives - she always meets their social, emotional and physical needs. Irene is always striving to deliver an even better service by introducing new activities and equipment. When my son started school in August it was a massive comfort to me (and him) that Irene would continue to provide wrap around care! My son has attended Stay 'n' Play since he was 10 months old and my daughter since she was 7 months. In all that time we have NEVER had any tears as they love 'their Irene!' I could not recommend her highly enough."

Self assessment

We received a fully completed self assessment from the childminder as requested. We were satisfied with the way this had been completed and the information provided.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a high quality service, caring for and nurturing the minded children while supporting very well their individual needs and interests.

The childminder had developed excellent relationships with children and their families and worked in partnership with parents to provide consistency and support.

What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to evaluate her service regularly, identifying areas for further development and improvement.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	6 - Excellent
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	6 - Excellent

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder was kind, caring and nurturing in her approach. She knew children and their families very well and had developed excellent relationships with parents and children. The childminder told us that she used a variety of methods to keep parents well-informed and involved in the service, such as WhatsApp and Facebook page, floorbook and children's scrapbooks. These methods allowed for effective communication and sharing of information which helped the childminder provide consistent care and support to the children as individuals on a daily basis. The childminder also talked about her continued desire to include parents more in her service.

Children were happy, secure and relaxed in the childminder's care and it was evident that they had developed strong attachments with her. They readily went to her with their questions, involved her in their play and asked for help when needed. The childminder showed respect to the children through sensitive, positive interactions, with very good use of questioning to extend children's thinking, vocabulary and language.

The childminder had created a stimulating learning environment indoors and outside, which encouraged children to develop skills and reach their potential through a variety of activities and experiences. We observed the childminder counting and engaging in conversation with the children, informally promoting literacy and numeracy and effectively using her skills to support children's development and progression. We observed the children independently leading their play and respecting resources, when encouraged to tidy up, so they could have fun playing and looking for treasure in the water tray.

Written information was gathered for all the children. Their individual files included the necessary health and wellbeing information along with emergency contact details. The childminder also recorded children's development, progress and achievements, sharing this regularly with parents to ensure they were included and involved in the children's development while at the service. We saw that parents had commented positively on reading their child's progress and development.

The service encouraged healthy lifestyles through nutritious snacks and active play in the fresh air. Parents provided packed lunches for the children, while the childminder provided snacks, such as fruit and vegetables, with milk and water to drink. She was fully aware of nutritional guidance and took this into consideration along with children's likes/dislikes when planning snacks. The children were encouraged to help prepare snack and take some responsibility to serve their friends at snack time, as 'chef of the week'. We saw photographs of the children taking turns to cut up fruit and carry plates to the table, encouraging their confidence and self-esteem.

Children had opportunities to access fresh air and active play daily through a range of exciting activities and experiences, in the garden and further afield. The children enjoyed visiting the beach to collect shells, parks to go exploring and have a run around as well as toddler groups, soft play and the woods.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 - excellent

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminding environment was clean, safe and stimulating. The childminder undertook visual risk assessments before the children arrived at the service which informed the written risk assessments that were regularly reviewed and updated when necessary. During the inspection, the children were playing with wooden, coloured rings used for counting. As the younger child placed the rings on her fingers, the older child commented 'Careful, they might get stuck.' The older child was risk assessing her friend's play as well as her own.

We saw that there was an excellent range of age appropriate toys and books, which were easily accessed by the children. The childminder discussed children's individual needs and interests and ensured that toys and resources were available to meet those interests and needs. The main play area was inviting and organised so that children were able to independently access what they wished to play with. We saw the children have fun as they played with the dolls and moved around the room 'to go shopping' with their shopping baskets. They were highly motivated by the resources and activities on offer, which encouraged confidence, independence and decision-making. The childminder told us that she had concentrated on developing her resources indoors and outside since the last inspection. She discussed extending children's play and learning when appropriate and encouraging child led learning. We saw that there had been natural open-ended resources introduced which the children were using imaginatively. All resources and equipment appeared clean and well maintained.

The childminder had very good measures in place to minimise the spread of infection. Children were encouraged and supported to wash their hands before eating and after toileting, toys and equipment were washed or cleaned regularly and the childminder wore disposable gloves and aprons when nappy changing or dealing with bodily fluids. Paper towels were used by the children for drying their hands which supported infection control within the service.

We reviewed accident and incident records and saw that there had been no significant accidents or incidents since the last inspection. There were appropriate recording systems in place for accidents, incidents and the administration of medication.

The childminder's rear garden was safe, well maintained and child centred. It offered excellent opportunities to explore, investigate, be curious and use imaginations as part of outdoor and energetic play. There was a vast range of resources which supported children to be active and develop physical skills. The childminder had continued to develop loose parts play and talked about how much the children enjoyed using the various parts to build and construct. She discussed her plans to further develop the outdoor space and the resources.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 – excellent

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

The childminder had many years' experience and used this to care for and support children and families. She was organised and professional in her approach and wanted to provide a quality service for the families who attended.

Training and continuing to enhance her knowledge, skills and practice was very important to the childminder. She regularly undertook professional development opportunities and reflected on the impact they had on her service and her practice. The childminder had refreshed the core training subjects, such as first aid and child protection as well as undertaking a variety of courses, modules and open badges, including child led planning, developing children's self-esteem and childsmile. The childminder told us that she was considering undertaking a Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) to support her in applying to become a funded partner with the local authority.

The childminder also had various methods of keeping updated with best practice and legislation, such as, communications from the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and the Care Inspectorate, accessing the Care Inspectorate Hub, Facebook forums and discussions with local childminders, whom she met with regularly and had the opportunity to discuss childminding and childcare topics.

Parents and children were encouraged to give feedback regularly on the childminding service, formally through written questionnaires and informally through daily chats. The childminder said she had used SurveyMonkey to gather parental suggestions and opinions but preferred to have the answers printed and available to her and this had not been possible with the SurveyMonkey approach. The childminder found the written self assessment

helpful in identifying service strengths and areas for improvement and further development. We discussed the national evaluation tool 'How good is our early learning and childcare?' which many daycare services find helpful when assessing their service. The childminder may find quality indicators within the document of benefit to her when evaluating her service. The document can be accessed through the Care Inspectorate Hub.

Policies and procedures were reviewed regularly to ensure they remained relevant to the service and continued to follow best practice. The childminder included and involved parents when reviewing and updating policies to keep them informed and also to take on board thoughts and suggestions that parents may have on the policies and procedures which underpinned the childminding service.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 - excellent

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	
9 May 2017	Unannounced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	6 - Excellent
5 Mar 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
17 Jun 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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