Brandsmill Farm Childcare Services
Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 9 May 2019

Service provided by:
Angela Balharrie trading as Brandsmill Farm Childcare Services

Service provider number:
SP2012011893

Care service number:
CS2012310744
Introduction

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com.

The provider Angela Balharrie trading as Brandsmill Farm Childcare Services, referred to as the childminder in this report, is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a childminding service to a maximum of six children under 16 years at any one time, of whom no more than six are under 12 years of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder’s own children.

The childminding service is provided from the childminder’s home in a rural area very near Dunbar, East Lothian. The home is a detached property over two floors with a small paddock area used for children’s play.

Aims and objectives for the service have been developed and are shared with parents through the information given to them at the start of placement. Aims included:

‘Brandsmill Farm childcare Services provides high quality, individualized care for children of all ages in a beautiful rural setting close to all the amenities of Dunbar. Having personally experienced the stresses and anxieties of securing reliable and convenient childcare for my own children I aim to offer a truly flexible registered childminding service to meet the needs of parents/carers and their children.’

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

What we did during our inspection

The inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate. The unannounced inspection took place on 09 May 2019.

As part of the inspection process we asked the childminder to issue care standard questionnaires to parents using the service.

During the inspection we gathered evidence from various sources including talking to the childminder, talking to children, looking at key information kept to ensure that children’s needs were met.

We assessed the suitability of the environment and equipment used for childminding.

Views of people using the service

The children who were present during our visit were very relaxed and confident in the care of the childminder. They went easily to her for help and reassurance. They had formed strong relationships with each other and were well supported in this.
We issued three care standard questionnaires. Three were returned before our inspection. Parents indicated that overall, they were happy with the quality of care their child received in the service. Comments included:

‘The childminder is fabulous. Our child adores her and her family. Our child loves to go to the childminder who is level headed and kind.’

‘She gives them excellent opportunities to enjoy the great outdoor resources we have on our doorstep and allows them to integrate with their peers at a range of groups in the community.’

‘Totally trust worthy and I have utmost confidence in her childcare.’

Self assessment

We spoke to the childminder about the need to update the self assessment which is used as part of the inspection process.

What the service did well

The childminder provided children with a very good childminding environment which focussed on being outdoors and being busy and creative. Parents said the childminder was practical and experienced in childcare which gave them confidence in her service.

What the service could do better

The childminder could increase the information she kept about children to further develop personal plans. The self assessment document which evidences a reflective approach to her service should be completed.

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

The childminder knew children in her care well and had collected a range of information about them to help her meet their care and support needs. Written information was enhanced by regular discussions with parents. We spoke to the childminder about developing further the system that records younger children’s routines to make sure they are updated and accurate. More work could be carried out to track some children’s development. This would further enhance the child’s personal plan.
Children were relaxed and engaged in a wide range of activities. The childminder used quiet but consistent messages to help children understand boundaries and to promote positive relationships amongst the group of children. Children spoke about other children who attended the childminders service and had clearly developed positive relationships with them. They spoke about the range of things they did at the childminders and could reflect that they enjoyed coming to be with the childminder. This evidenced children’s security and confidence.

Parents provided packed lunches and snacks for their children but the childminder often supplemented this if children needed additional snacks or drinks. The childminder had a very good understanding of healthy eating and promoted good manners and eating habits by ensuring meals and snacks were taken at the kitchen table. This was a very sociable time and children sat and chatted about their day making it a valuable learning experience.

The childminder understood the wellbeing indicators which are associated with the Government policy of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). She promoted positive outcomes through treating each child as an individual. Through our discussions she evidenced that she knew the childminder in her care very well and could tell us how she supported children through her actions and interactions with them.

Parents commented on the professional communication they received about their child and felt very at ease about any discussions they had or might have with the childminder.

**Requirements**

**Number of requirements:** 0

**Recommendations**

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 5 - very good

**Quality of environment**

**Findings from the inspection**

The childminders home provided children with a comfortable home from home experience. The home was well organised and children were familiar and comfortable in their surroundings. On the day of our visit the home was safe and secure for children to use. The childminder had a procedure for assessing risks in the home, outdoors and on trips. Children were reminded gently to keep themselves and others safe whilst being enabled to develop independence and confidence.

The children had an extensive range of resources for children to use and we noted that children were very engaged in a wide range of play opportunities. The childminder supported their play well encouraging children to persevere with tasks and play co-operatively, where this was appropriate.

A number of policies and procedures were in place to inform parents how the childminder kept their children safe. These had been updated, were comprehensive and took account of current good practice guidance. Children had been encouraged to form good hand hygiene habits and had a good understanding of procedures such as hand washing and why this was important.
The childminder provided children with very good opportunities for outdoor and physically active play. The childminder used the small paddock at her home regularly and we pointed her in the direction of information about loose and natural parts play which would further enhance children’s play opportunities. The childminder attended woodland play sessions weekly with children and used the local area for walks and outings. Younger children had opportunities to go to a local playgroup and other group activities to experience group care, which helped to prepare them for nursery school.

**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 professional approach to her role and was aware of her statutory responsibilities. Parents agreed that the childminder was professional and that communication about their children was regular and meaningful. They stated that they would feel comfortable in asking questions or raising concerns.

The childminder consulted with children daily to enable them to influence the pace of their day. Children told us that they got to choose what they wanted to do and told us they liked coming to play at the childminders, especially in the woods.

The childminder had carried out a very good range of training since our last visit. Core training was up to date and the childminder had attended a number of courses, which were relevant to childcare and supporting parents, as part of another support role she held. The childminder had a comprehensive understanding of child development and used this to achieve positive outcomes for children.

It had been sometime since the childminder had completed the self assessment which is used as part of the inspection process. We have asked the childminder to complete this as it will enable her to reflect on the service she provides and how this meets the Health and Social Care Standards.

**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

Recommendation 1

The childminder should develop an infection control policy which should include how she minimises the risks of infection in the childminding setting. National Care Standard for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 2 - A safe environment.

This recommendation was made on 3 August 2015.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had developed an infection control policy which informed parents how she minimised the risks of infection. This recommendation was met.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Gradings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 May 2015</td>
<td>Announced (short notice)</td>
<td>Care and support 4 - Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Environment 4 - Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Staffing Not assessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Management and leadership 4 - Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inspection report for Brandsmill Farm Childcare Services
page 7 of 8
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 foilseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cânain eile ma nithear iarrtas.

أَنْتُمْ تَأْخُذُونَ أَنَاسًا فِي غِرفَتِكُمْ وَتَمْحَرُونَ أَنَاسًا فِي غِرفَتِكُمْ يَا بَكَّي وَبَكَّي

বাংলা বাক্সে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফর্মেট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

この出版品は他言語版でも提供しています。

Tha am foilseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cânain eile ma nithear iarrtas.

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