

Johnston, Catriona Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 19 September 2019

Service provided by:
Johnston, Catriona

Service provider number:
SP2007967975

Care service number:
CS2007167749

Introduction

The childminder provides her service from her family home which is located in the Fife village of East Wemyss. Local facilities can easily be accessed on foot, or by means of a short car journey.

The childminder had clear aims for her service. There were to provide somewhere safe to allow children to learn and grow.

Mrs Johnston may care for a maximum of seven children under the age of 16 years, at any given time, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school, including no more than 1 child who is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

There is no restriction on the daytime hours of operation, however, no overnight care may be provided. All parts of the premises may be used for childminding purposes.

At the time of inspection, there were six children registered to use the service, all of whom attended on a part-time basis. Two preschool children were present during our visit.

What we did during our inspection

We completed this report following an unannounced inspection between 12.00 and 2.15pm on 19 September 2019. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate Early Years Inspector.

During this inspection we spoke to the childminder and we observed the care given to the young children who was in the service at the time. We looked at a number of documents including records for individual children, service policies, and medication records.

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.

Views of people using the service

We received three completed questionnaires from parents. Those who responded strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care in the service.

They told us:

- "Tina is a fantastic childminder. I am so happy I found her"
- "she takes them to the beach, the park and the local green areas"
- "she really knows my children, their likes, dislikes and their interests".

Self assessment

The childminder had submitted a self-assessment of her service in advance of the inspection. The information contained in this was helpful during the inspection and in the writing of this report.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a friendly, warm and caring atmosphere for children. She was kind and respectful of the children. She clearly enjoyed being with children and she told us that she wanted to provide a safe, family experience for them. She had very good relationships with parents and spent time each day sharing information about what their child had done that day.

She offered a flexible service to children across a wide age range and offered appropriate toys and experiences for them all. She encouraged them to make choices about what they wanted to do. She offered lots of opportunities for children to enjoy active play out in the local community.

What the service could do better

The childminder should consider how to access appropriate training and learning which would allow her to keep up to date with the most recent guidance and best practice in early education and childcare. This could be done through attending training courses, reading or using 'The Hub' on the Care Inspectorate website: www.hub@careinspectorate.com

She should review her approach to the administration of medication to ensure that she has all of the necessary information recorded and confirmed by parents.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 – Good
Quality of environment	4 – Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	3 – Adequate

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered during the inspection we found that the service was performing to a good standard in this area. The childminder had a kind and warm relationship with the children and families who used her service. She was calm with the children and listened well to what they wanted to say. She was soothing and encouraging with the youngest children who responded well to her.

The childminder knew the children well and was able to offer the most appropriate care which met their needs. We could see that the children were happy in the childminder's home. They were playing with a variety of toys. They were given the choice from the selection of toys and activities which were kept by the childminder. There were suitable choices of activity for the older children who came after school.

The childminder used songs and nursery rhymes to support number and language development in the youngest children. As a result children were making progress in these areas.

She met with parents in advance of children coming into her service. She planned a series of meetings and visits which were tailored to meet the needs of the individual children. There were a combination of visits with the parents staying and then the child spending periods with the childminder alone. She gathered information which was used to help follow the routines of the children. This information was discussed with the parents rather than being recorded. We spoke with the childminder about ways that she could record this along with the learning and developments of the children (see recommendation 1).

The childminder understood her responsibility to promote healthy eating. The children brought their own food from home and ate snacks and lunch with the childminder. We directed her to the publication 'Food Matters - Care Inspectorate'. This will support her discussions with children and parents about making healthy food choices.

The childminder had clear expectations of the children in her care. She spoke with them about keeping safe while out in the local community. She had rules for her home which were designed to keep children safe.

The childminder worked hard to provide a nurturing experience for the children in her care and we judged that she achieved this well.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The childminder should develop: 'All about Me' personal plans for each child which document and record children's personal and individual care needs reflecting the SHANARRI (safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included) wellbeing indicators. They should be used to record the learning and developments of children.

These must be reviewed with parents and updated every six months or sooner if required.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15).

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered during the inspection we found that the service was performing to a good standard in this area.

We saw that the childminder's house was well organised, and that the house was safe for children. She made a daily visual check to ensure that the house was fully prepared for children. A daily record of children's attendance was kept in her daily diary.

The minded children had exclusive use of a playroom on the ground floor of the house. They used a downstairs toilet where paper towels were available. Safety gates were used to protect children on the stairs. The childminder promoted good hand washing to help prevent the spread of infection. She understood her responsibilities to protect the health and wellbeing of children.

We asked that the childminder consider the purpose of the television being on when it was clear that the children were involved in playing with the toys. The childminder had a range of toys which were suitable for ages of the children who attended. They were stored in a way that children could choose for themselves. Art and craft materials were available for the older children who came from school at the end of the day.

We spoke with the childminder about the current best practice guidance on sleeping. We advised that if children were sleeping in buggies or baby chairs then written permission should be sought from parents. The childminder had a travel cot and would speak with parents about how this was a safer and more comfortable sleeping option for small children.

The youngest children had regular outings in the local community. They visited local parks, woodland and the beach. This provided regular, active outdoor play which promoted the children's health and wellbeing.

Information about accidents and incidents were recorded and shared with parents. We advised that it was good practice to offer parents a copy of any accident report.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered during the inspection we found that the service was performing to an adequate standard in this area.

The childminder had current training in First Aid. This would help her to respond to any accidents and injuries to children in an appropriate way. She understood her role in child protection. She had attended training, and as a result children were safeguarded.

A requirement from a previous inspection had not been met. We gave some support and information on her responsibility to administer medication safely. The requirement is continued and we will support the childminder to ensure that she puts the correct recording in place (see requirement 1).

We discussed with the childminder the need to review some of the records and paperwork that she kept. She should keep all of her policies under review and have them available to share with parents when they begin to use the service. She should concentrate on recording the key information to help her care for the children. She had very good communication with children and with families.

The childminder promoted openness with the families with whom she worked. She had a complaints policy which was shared with parents. This contained all of the necessary information.

The childminder had an informal way of involving parents and children in evaluating her service. She had an open policy and encouraged parents and children to offer suggestions and ideas about how she could improve the service that she offered. She worked hard to build relationships with the families that she worked with. She spent time every day talking with parents and sharing information. Children were given choices about the activities that they wanted to do and the outings that wanted to go on.

We suggested that she become familiar with the new Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which would be useful to her when reviewing her service.

To help her have an improved understanding of the current expectations of quality childminding we directed the childminder to the following publications for sources of support and information at 'The Hub' on the Care Inspectorate website: www.hub@careinspectorate.com:

- 'Building the Ambition'
- 'My Childminding Experience'.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 3 - adequate

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	
6 Mar 2015	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
29 Nov 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
3 Feb 2010	Announced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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