

Beard, Luise Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 29 October 2019

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2008970058

Care service number:
CS2008190654

Introduction

Luise Beard registered on 23 February 2010.

The service is registered as a childminding service to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, 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 the childminder's family. Minded children may not access the three main bedrooms and the bathroom.

The service is provided from the childminder's home in a residential area in Forres. Children have access to a large living/dining room which leads directly onto the kitchen. They use the fourth bedroom for sleeping and there is an enclosed garden for outdoor play. The service is located close to local amenities, including school and play parks.

What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following a short notice announced inspection, which took place between 11.50am and 2.40pm on 29 October 2019. Telephone feedback was given to the childminder following the inspection. The inspection was carried out by one inspector

During this inspection we spoke to the childminder and children present. We observed the care given by the childminder and looked at a number of documents including children's records and certificates of training.

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 three young children present during the inspection. They were too young to give us their views but they all appeared happy, settled and confident. They readily approached the childminder for comfort and reassurance.

We received two parent questionnaires before the inspection. Both parents strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care their child received at the service. One parent commented:

- Luise gets the balance of firm boundaries and a caring nature perfectly and always involves my child in engaging activities.

Self assessment

The childminder had submitted a self-assessment before the inspection. This contained relevant information about the service provided. It could be further developed to include the outcomes for children using the service as well as areas for development.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a warm, nurturing service. She knew the children well and was supporting their development. Children had access to outdoor play most days and were enjoying their time at the service. The childminder has developed very positive relationships with parents. She provides a flexible service that meets the needs of families. Parents are very pleased with the service.

What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to develop the records she keeps about individual children and the range of activities and experiences. Better use of best practice documents would support the childminder with this as well as accessing more training and development opportunities.

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

The childminder's kind, caring manner supported children to settle well and build confidence. She interacted in a positive manner, supporting children to play and providing comfort and reassurance. It was clear the children were fond of the childminder and had formed secure attachments as they climbed on her knee for cuddles.

The childminder knew the children's needs, preferences and personalities well. Daily discussions with parents ensured she kept up to date with any changes that impacted on children. Some information about individual children was recorded, however this was quite limited. We suggested this could be developed to reflect the more comprehensive information that was shared through discussions.

Although the childminder knew children's current needs well, there was little evidence information was reviewed with parents. We advised the childminder to ensure parents were fully involved in the review and a record of this was kept. This would support the childminder to be confident the information was accurate and provide additional opportunities to discuss children's care with parents.

The childminder listened respectfully and responded with warmth and enthusiasm to children's requests, making activities enjoyable and fun. She had a good understanding of each child's stage of development and was clear on how she could support children's progression. For example, she understood the importance of stories, rhymes and songs to encourage children's language development. During the inspection we saw the childminder interacting very well to support each child with their development.

Effective arrangements were in place to safeguard children. The childminder had attended child protection training and was clear on her roles and responsibilities to protect children. The child protection policy provided

limited information. We suggested developing this further to ensure clear guidance was available in the event of any concerns and to help share information with parents. She had a very good understanding of GIRFEC and was clear on how to access additional support for children. We suggested the use of chronologies would support the effective assessment of any wellbeing needs and help ensure children got the right support at the right time. Further information can be found at:

<http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/468617/practice-guide-to-chronologies-2017.pdf>

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 – good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Children benefited from being cared for in a secure, clean and homely environment. Children slept in a travel cot upstairs, supporting them to have uninterrupted sleep in a safe and comfy environment.

There was plenty of space for children to play and access a range of experiences. We saw them confidently and independently accessing different toys. They enjoyed looking at books and playing with the cars. They had fun exploring with the blocks, whilst the childminder supported them, making activities interesting and engaging. Children's creativity was encouraged through activities including baking, painting and craft activities.

In the fully enclosed garden, children were supported to be active as they developed their gross motor skills. The netting around the large trampoline helped to keep children safe. Children were allowed to play on the trampoline together. This increased the risk of children getting hurt and was also not in line with the manufacture's guidance. The childminder was keen to keep children safe; following a discussion with us she agreed to ensure only one child at a time used the trampoline.

Outdoor activities such as shaving foam, sand and water play provided some sensory experiences. Children had also been involved in planting tomatoes, lettuces and sunflowers. This supported children's understanding of growing and where food comes from.

There were few open ended, natural and real-life resources both indoors and outdoors. This limited children's ability to develop skills in areas such as problem solving, investigation and creativity. We suggested further developing the environment would support children in these areas. Resources available on the Care Inspectorate Hub to support the childminder with this include; Building the Ambition, Loose Parts Toolkit, My World Outdoors and Our Creative Journey.

Children enjoyed trips to the local parks most days as well as walking to and from school. This supported children to be healthy and active and provided opportunities for them to learn about how to keep themselves

safe near roads. The weekly visit to a nearby toddler group encouraged children to develop social skills and provided opportunities to access different activities and experiences. In the holidays children benefited from a range of trips further afield, including local beaches and visiting nearby towns on the bus.

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

Information from the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and the Care Inspectorate supported the childminder to keep up to date with new initiatives.

The childminder had started to become familiar with some best practice documents to develop her knowledge. However, she was not yet actively using these to support the development of her service. Accessing a wider range of good practice documents from the Care Inspectorate Hub would support her to develop her service further.

The childminder had attended core training, including first aid and child protection. This supported her to meet children's health needs and keep them safe. The childminder's level three qualification provided her with an understanding of child development that supported her in encouraging children's progression. She had not accessed any additional training, although she had planned to attend two courses which had been cancelled due to lack of participants. We suggested accessing additional training and development opportunities as well as making better use of best practice documents would support her in developing her service further. (see Recommendation 1)

Records were well organised, meaning information was readily accessible. The childminder had developed some basic policies that supported her in running her service. These were shared with parents and gave them a basis for evaluating the service. The childminder had not developed any aims for the service, we asked her to do this.

The childminder provided a flexible service that met the needs of families well. She clearly enjoyed caring for children. She had developed very good relationships with parents that supported her to meet children's care needs on a daily basis. Her regular discussions with parents enabled her to be responsive to children's changing needs. Parents and children were encouraged to give feedback about the service through daily discussions.

However, there were no effective procedures in place for systematically evaluating the service. Resources such as Building the Ambition and Your Childminding Journey would support the childminder in developing her service and provide high quality care based on evidence based best practice guidance.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. To support the development of the service and ensure children receive high quality early learning and childcare, the childminder should access training and development opportunities and extend her knowledge of best practice. Her learning from this should then be used to develop the service further.

This ensures care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state 'I receive high quality care based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice.' (HSCS 4.11)

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
27 Oct 2015	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 5 - Very good
22 Sep 2011	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 4 - Good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
18 Oct 2010	Announced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership Not assessed

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