

Alison's allstars Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 18 November 2019

Service provided by:
Yule, Alison & David

Service provider number:
SP2003908928

Care service number:
CS2003020028

Introduction

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services can be found on our website at www.careinspectorate.com.

This service was registered with the Care Inspectorate 01 April 2011.

Alison and David Yule, referred to as the 'childminders' in this report, are the providers of Alison's allstars. They are registered to provide a childminding service. When working alone, either David or Alison may provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16 years. Of whom no more than three are of an age not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is less than one year of age. When working together, David & Alison may provide a care service to a maximum of 10 children at any one time under the age of 16 years. Of whom no more than four are of an age not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than two are less than one year of age. Numbers are inclusive of David and Alison Yule's children.

Overnight service will not be provided, and minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those stated on the registration certificate.

The service is run from the childminders home in Larbert, near Falkirk. The house is well maintained and organised to meet the needs of children. The service offers children a well-resourced playroom and garden. The living room and kitchen are both used by minded children. The service has good access to local amenities, including parks, the Kelpies and local primary schools.

The childminders aim to:

- Encourage and develop language and communication through one to one interaction and alongside a range of play, storytelling and other activities.
- Recognise children as individuals and provide opportunities for them to develop their own personal interests.
- Be positive role models and promote social skills, encouraging courteous behaviour and respect for others.

We also 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.

What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection, which took place Monday 18 November 2019 between 15:30 and 18:15. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate Early Years Inspector.

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

We sent three care standards questionnaires to the childminders to distribute to relatives and carers of people who used the service. We received three completed questionnaires before our visit. Parents were exceptionally happy with the service provided.

During this inspection, we gathered evidence from a number of sources, including the following:

We spoke with:

- the children present
- the childminders.

We observed and viewed:

- the environment
- the childminders practice and interactions with children
- the children playing.

We looked at the following evidence:

- children's information
- children's learning folders and learning walls
- accident records
- administration of medicine records
- photographs
- policies including child protection, medication and infection control
- certificate of registration
- insurance certificates

We took account of all of the above information when we evaluated this service and wrote this report.

Please note that all parents and carers will be referred to as 'parents' throughout this report.

Views

Views of people using the service

Six children were present during our inspection. They were happy, confident and keen to engage with us. They were drawing and enjoying playing 'hangman' and 'four in a row'.

The childminders were exceptionally caring and respectful in their interactions with them and responded to their wishes and requests. They told us:

"My favourite thing to play with is the 'Romans and Castle' Playmobil."

"We are learning about Japan and we are learning about Sumo wrestling."

"We learn to be healthy."

"I like playing games with my best friend. We play hangman and draughts."

Parent's comments on the completed questionnaires told us:

"We are extremely happy with the service provided by Alison and David. They are great childminders who care deeply for all the children they look after."

"The childminders regularly asked the children about topics they would like to cover. The children also complete their own questionnaires annually, which asks for their direct feedback. Parents are also requested to complete a questionnaire which encourages feedback. "

"I am very happy with the quality of childcare provided. I always feel that my child is in a safe and secure environment. I like the range of topics and discussions that take place and my child often comes home with interesting facts."

"Alison and David operate an excellent and highly professional childminding service. My children really enjoy their time with Allison and David. They are very well cared for there and have learned a lot. There is a fabulous choice of activities to do and they have made very close friendships with other children at the service."

"There are lots of different equipment, toys and materials for the children."

"The childminders take my child to local toddler groups, parks, local cafes and shops. On non-school days, children have visited some fantastic local visitor attractions, such as castles and museums."

Self assessment

We received a fully completed self-assessment. The childminders gave a thorough and relevant account of what they thought they did well, how children benefited from the care and experiences they provide.

What the service did well

The highly passionate and dedicated childminders had children's interests at the heart of their practice. Children were experiencing rich and exciting play and learning opportunities, indoors, outdoors and in the local community. The high quality learning experiences resulted in positive outcomes for all children.

Exciting and informative topics created opportunities for children to explore and discover a range of interesting subjects. This developed their knowledge through interests and learning together.

What the service could do better

To enhance the excellent practice in the service, we asked the childminders to consider developing training records and quality monitoring sheets to record the impact made on outcomes for children that we saw in practice.

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	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The very experienced childminders worked effectively as a team to deliver an outstanding service. They nurtured and encouraged children to learn through exciting and informative topics. Children were invited to discuss and choose the topics. At the time of inspection they were learning about the country Japan, with a particular focus on Summo Wrestlers. Regular themed days out, that linked to topics, were arranged. For example, children went to visit Whitelee Wind farm, when learning about electricity. Children discussed, researched and discovered new information, which developed language and thinking skills.

The childminders carefully planned which days children worked on topics, and would appropriately include all ages of children. This made sure that everyone was included. Children were keen to tell us about the topics and shared how much they enjoyed them. One child said "We are learning about Summo Wrestlers." Children and parents were included in planning and choosing future topics and kept informed through regular newsletters. Personal development plans were used to track and record younger children's needs and achievements, in line with the national wellbeing indicators, safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. This showed that children were progressing at an appropriate pace.

'All About Me' sheets were used to help the childminders to get to know new children. The childminders valued partnership working with parents and had excellent systems in place to encourage trusting and respectful relationships. Important information about children's current needs was reviewed with parents every six months and the childminders would visit the child's home to do this. This allowed both parents to participate. Parents told us that this outstanding service was appreciated. During home visits, the childminders shared a summary of how children had progressed in the last six months and parents were asked if there were any goals that they would like the childminders to work on with the children over the next six months. Parents were included and valued.

There was a strong focus on health and wellbeing. The childminders supported children's emotional wellbeing and resilience and encouraged them to do well and try hard. They gave lots of positive praise and encouragement, for example, by using high fives and fist pumps and giving cuddles when required. Similarly, there was a focus on healthy eating and snack was sociable and unhurried. These experiences allowed children to enjoy and appreciate the food they ate and supported the process of developing healthy eating habits. The childminders demonstrated a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection; they administered medication safely and recorded accidents and incidents as required. This helped to keep children safe and protected.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 - excellent

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The learning environment was excellent. Children benefited from having a designated playroom, which had easy access to the living room and kitchen. There was a large, enclosed garden, which children could access independently. The childminders home provided quiet spaces for children to relax. They were respected and likewise treated the childminders house with respect, having all signed up to the "Golden House Rules" charter. They had learned to be kind and responsible.

There was an excellent range of toys, including; Lego, letter keyrings, fact and fiction books, board games, puzzles and craft materials. Such toys supported children to develop various skills, for example, social communication, literacy, maths and creativity. The playroom housed exceptionally interesting displays, photographs and artwork, which showcased the current topic and other interesting experiences the children had been learning about. They were very involved in setting up the learning wall, which 'grew' as topics developed. A wealth of resources were used when researching topics, both indoors, outdoors, and in the local and wider communities. For example, trips to the library to find relevant books for research. Children developed thinking and research skills.

Healthy lifestyle choices were encouraged, through opportunities to be active and experience risk benefit play outdoors. The childminders were members of Historic Scotland and National Trust for Scotland. Excellent use was made of these memberships and children benefited from a range of trips and excursions, some of which linked into topics. For example, trips to Stirling Castle and Bannockburn Heritage Centre when the children explored the topic 'Scotland.' Similarly, the children were looking at the Forth Bridges, and there was an opportunity for some of them to walk along the old bridge. The wealth of outstanding experiences in the wider community also included: National Museum of Scotland, Museum of Rural Life, Boglily Buffalo Farm and Summerlee Heritage Park. Children gained a breadth of valuable knowledge as they learned about the world around them.

The environment was very well-managed to promote children's safety and wellbeing. For example, risk assessments and measures were put in place to reduce hazards. Similarly, clear policies and procedures minimised the spread of infection, which kept children protected from illness.

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 childminders communicated well with parents and kept them fully informed by using 'WhatsApp' (software used on a mobile device) as a communication tool. Parents were included and respected. Quarterly newsletters, informed parents about necessary updates and information about high quality learning experiences. Children and parents were formally invited to feedback about the service through written questionnaires, which complemented ongoing verbal feedback. Children and parents' views were actively sought and valued. The childminders were members of a local childminding group. The group supported improvement and openly discussed training needs, based on current legislation. We suggested to the childminders to consider keeping a self-evaluation record to demonstrate improvements made and the impact improvements had on outcomes for children.

The childminders were highly committed to engage in training and professional research to improve their understanding to continue to provide a high quality service. They were currently working on a Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) Learning Pathway unit about transitions, autism and self-esteem. Similarly, they regularly completed online training and engaged in a weekly webinar chat forum. We suggested that they kept training records to evidence what training they had done and record the impact their new knowledge made on outcomes for children.

We suggested to the childminders that they could introduce more natural 'loose parts' resources, such as, cardboard tubes, buttons and shells. Such resources increased creativity and imagination, especially for younger children. We signposted them to the following good practice guidance: Loose Parts Play - available at www.inspiringscotland.org.uk and Our Creative Journey - available at www.hub.careinspectorate.com

A range of policies were shared with parents to inform them about the service. We suggested to the childminders that they reviewed and updated some policies to reflect current practice. Similarly, we suggested to the childminders to consider developing a safe sleep policy to inform parents of current best practice. We advised them that current research recommended that children do not sleep in pushchairs. This was because long periods of sleeping in pushchairs could restrict children from being able to naturally move position during sleep. We signposted them to the following guidance <https://safesleepscotland.org/reduce-the-risks-dont-let-me-sleep-in-my-chair-swing-or-nest/>.

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	
16 Aug 2017	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
11 Aug 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
26 Aug 2013	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
26 Jan 2010	Announced	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
30 Jul 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

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