

Aitchison, Yvonne

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)
Inspection completed on: 17 December 2019

Service provided by:
Yvonne Aitchison

Service provider number:
SP2003904066

Care service number:
CS2003007026

Introduction

Yvonne Aitchison provides a small childminding service from her family home, which is situated in Lochgelly. Minded children have access to the sitting room, the kitchen and bathroom on the ground floor. There is a back garden which is equipped with a large number of outdoor toys.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children under the age of 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 of age. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

On the day of the inspection one child was present. We observed the childminder as she cared for the child throughout the inspection. The child was too young to give us her views of the service but she played happily throughout the inspection and interacted happily and confidently with the childminder.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection. We arrived at the childminder's home at 10am on the morning of 6 December 2019. The childminder was not at home. We arranged a short notice inspection which took place between 10.00 and 11.45hrs on the morning of 9 December 2019. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate Early Years Locum Inspector. We gave detailed feedback to the childminder by telephone on the afternoon of 17 December 2019.

During the inspection process we gathered evidence through discussion with the childminder, observed her interactions with the one child present, considered the range of resources and activities available, inspected the areas of the premises used and looked at relevant sections of records, policies and procedures and other documents.

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. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

Views of people using the service

We found the young child present throughout the inspection had a warm relationship with the childminder and happily chatted about his experiences throughout the inspection.

Self assessment

We discussed the importance of updating the self assessment and submitting it when requested.

What the service did well

The childminder provided families with good quality care and support. She knew the children in her care well and provided a warm, nurturing environment where children could play, learn and develop. She provided a flexible service to meet the individual needs of children and their families.

What the service could do better

The childminder should ensure she completes her annual return and updates her self assessment when requested. She should attend training in the areas she has identified and note how this has influenced her practice. She should refer to best practice documents on the Care Inspectorate HUB to support her in developing her practice when updating her policies and procedures. Care Plans should contain quality observations and agreed next steps.

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	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The performance in this quality theme was found to be good.

The childminder continued to provide families with a good standard of care and support. She knew the families who used her service well and had built up trusting relationships with parents, so that they felt at ease sharing information about their child. They had daily chats at drop off and pick up times and texted throughout the day, sharing changes to routines and celebrating children's achievements. This reassured parents their wishes were respected and their child was happy and receiving individualised care and support.

The childminder had an attentive and nurturing manner towards the minded child. It was evident they had formed a positive and respectful relationship. The minded child confidently approached the childminder and she responded to this in a kind and caring approach. They were relaxed and happy in each other's company. The child felt safe and secure in their surroundings.

When asking the childminder what she did with the children in her home and when they were out and about, the minded child happily added details of the activities he enjoyed. 'I like the chocolate muffins, we make them.' 'I've got a wet suit, we go to the Meddies.' This confirmed and added to what the childminder told us. Children had daily opportunities for active, energetic play, promoting their health and wellbeing.

Throughout the inspection we observed the child being encouraged to be independent in making their own choices during play. The childminder provided the child with free play and learning opportunities from boxes of toys and resources. We observed the child playing with resources that supported imaginative and creative play. We discussed the importance of extending the child's depth of experiences through quality conversations and providing open-ended, natural resources to support this.

The childminder was aware of GIRFEC and SHANARRI wellbeing indicators and we discussed best practice document Building the Ambition and how she could use these when recording Information on individual children (children's care plans). The childminder was aware this information was to be reviewed 'as and when' or routinely every six months. She should include agreed next steps with parents. We asked the childminder to refer to best practice documents in the Care Inspectorate HUB and use these to review and update policies to ensure they contained the relevant information.

See recommendation 1 in management and leadership.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We found the childminder provided children with a warm, clean and hygienically maintained, homely environment.

She made effective use of the outdoor space and wider environment. We observed an enclosed garden area at the rear of the premises. The childminder told us she was upgrading the back garden. She had removed old sheds and old equipment and was in the process of planning to buy new toys. The child told us 'the see-saw was broken and we have a new see-saw and swings.' We discussed the how this was an opportunity to refer to best practice documents such as My World Outdoors and Loose Parts Play, consult with the children and provide activities that would promote thinking skills and stimulate creativity and enquiry into children's play. Information can be found here: www.hub.careinspectorate.gov.scot

In addition to this, the childminder made good use of local activities and attractions. This provided the children with further opportunities to investigate and explore their local community and engage with their natural environment. The childminder told us how she allowed the older children to take more responsibility in assessing personal risks. This enhanced their awareness of how to keep themselves safe. The childminder was committed to the children experiencing the outdoors and told us after school the children played outside in the garden most days.

Good hygiene procedures were encouraged at all times. Children washed their hands after playing in the garden and before snack. As a result, this minimised the spread of infection.

The childminder told us she was going to be looking after a baby in the near future. We discussed nappy changing and sleep arrangements for young children, and recommended the childminder refer again to the Care Inspectorate HUB for best practice guidance.

Accidents and incidents paperwork were current and shared with parents.

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

We graded the quality of management and leadership as good.

The childminder had established trusting relationships with the families using her service. There was good communication in place through daily discussions and updates by texts and photographs. This resulted in continuity of care and the parents feeling included in their child's day.

The childminder gathered feedback from children and families through verbal discussions. . Resulting from these feedback procedures the childminder had made improvements to her service. She was in the process of upgrading her outdoor space. We discussed with the childminder that asking 'open ended' questions either verbally or on feedback forms will encourage families to provide additional feedback which will support her to evaluate her service.

We found the childminder was keen to keep up to date with latest developments in childcare. Through discussion, she understood why it was important she increased her knowledge and understanding in these areas in order to assess how she is improving outcomes for the children in her care. We emphasised making use of SHANARRI wellbeing indicators and best practice documents on the on the HUB to support the on going development of children's care plans.
See recommendation 1.

The childminder told us she found our discussions very helpful. She immediately joined the Scottish childminding association to support her with paperwork and sought information to update her training in Child Protection and Paediatric First Aid.

We asked the childminder to consider making a note in a learning log of any individually resourced training, such as reading or research she has done, and how these impact on her practice. We discussed how this would help her identify areas for improvement in the future.

We talked to the childminder about the importance of submitting requested documents to the Care Inspectorate, record keeping and assessing and evaluating her service and training.

Overall, the childminder was providing a good service and she should develop the monitoring and evaluation of her service to support improvement and enhance outcomes for children and families.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. Children should experience a care service that reflects best practice and current legislation. The childminder should use her SCMA membership and the Care Inspectorate Hub to stay up to date with new best practice guidance and use this to inform children's care plans, policies and procedures.

She should familiarise herself with GIRFEC, national well-being indicators and Building the Ambition. She should begin to use these best practice documents to help her maintain good outcomes for the children in her care.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which state: Children have a right to experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice. (HSCS 4.11)

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

It is recommended that the childminder should attend training in child protection, to include GIRFEC, to safeguard children's health and wellbeing.

National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16.

Standard 14: Well- managed service.

This recommendation was made on 4 September 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had accessed basic child protection training, but was still not confident using the GIRFEC approach

Recommendation 2

We recommend the childminder familiarise herself with GIRFEC, national well-being indicators and Building the Ambition. The childminder should begin to use these best practice documents to help her maintain good outcomes for the children in her care.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which state: Children have a right to experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice. (HSCS 4.11)

This recommendation was made on 28 March 2019.

Action taken on previous recommendation

This recommendation is continued

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	
14 Jan 2019	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate
4 Sep 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
19 Jan 2011	Announced	Care and support	Not assessed
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
22 Mar 2010	Announced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	3 - Adequate
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
18 Feb 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	3 - Adequate
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	3 - Adequate
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

To find out more

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 foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànanan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

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