

MacLean, Judith

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 13 December 2019

Service provided by:
MacLean, Judith

Service provider number:
SP2003901654

Care service number:
CS2003003310

Introduction

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

The service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

Judith MacLean, referred to as the 'childminder' in this report, is the provider of Judith MacLean Childminding Service. She is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of eight children at any one time under the age of 16. Of whom no more than six children at any one time will be under the age of 16 years. Of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is less than 12 months. Overnight care will not be provided.

The service is run from the childminder's house in Tillicoultry and is well situated to access a wide range of amenities including schools, nurseries, parks and the library. The house is well organised to meet the needs of children. The service offers children a well-resourced living room, kitchen and enclosed garden.

The childminder aims to:

- To provide a safe and loving environment for all children.
- To provide a family atmosphere, giving a home from home feeling for the children.
- To encourage learning through play and interaction with each other and myself.

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

What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection, which took place on Friday 13 December 2019 between 09:15 and 10:45. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate Early Years Inspector.

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

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

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

We spoke with:

- the child present
- the childminder.

We observed and viewed:

- the environment
- the childminder's practice and interactions with child
- the child 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 of people using the service

One child, aged three years old, was present during our inspection. He was keen to show us the toys. He told us:

"We go with our friend to toddlers."

"We sing at Minnows." (a local music and movement group led by a dance teacher).

Parent's comments on the completed questionnaires told us:

"We are in the process of moving. We heard about Judith by word of mouth from different people. For many, many years she has provided loving care to my children. When she was operating to full capacity, you could never get a place with her, as she was always full. We have been very happy with the care she is given to our son and sad to leave this childcare behind."

"Judith provides a safe, happy and caring environment for my child. She is now a huge part of our lives."

"Judith gives me feedback at every pickup, she also regularly asks me my thoughts about activities planned."

"In the past, if a new child was starting, Judith would send us a letter informing us. As she is winding down now, ready for retirement, she is not taking on any other children. She regularly asks if we have any ideas about how she can do things better. "She will be very much missed by all her children and their families."

"The house is homely, warm and has a totally enclosed rear garden, which is very safe for the children to play outside. There are many, many toys, colouring in and crafts etc."

"Judith takes children to parks, even as far away as Dunfermline, they go to soft play visit the library. In the holidays, Briarlands Farm is a favourite on sunny days."

"Judith send out newsletters and a questionnaire to ask for opinions and views. She asks for a sheet about our child's daily routine and we are in constant contact through text messaging."

Self assessment

We received a comprehensive completed self-assessment. The childminder gave a thorough and relevant account of what she thought she did well.

What the service did well

Children were cared for by a very experienced and nurturing childminder who knew them well and respected their needs, interests and wishes. The childminder had established very positive, warm and respectful relationships with children and parents, which was reflected in feedback.

What the service could do better

The childminder was winding down her service. During this period, we asked that she remained proactively up to date with recent best practice guidance to keep abreast of current legislation.

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	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The childminder was very experienced and in tune with children's needs, particularly when they required support. She had cared for most of the children for several years and it was clear that the childminder's home was very much a second home to them. She used her skill and knowledge to provide appropriate learning experiences, which contributed to children's enjoyment and progress. Her wealth of experience and calm approach enhanced children's feelings of being safe and included.

Parents had used the service for several years and benefitted from having a trusting relationship with the childminder. The childminder provided a flexible service, which supported individual family needs and circumstances. Communication with parents was very good and they had opportunities to speak to the childminder when collecting their child. Similarly, the childminder sent video clips of children playing and updates via text messaging to individual parents. This helped parents to feel informed and valued.

The childminder worked in partnership with parents to agree the health, safety and welfare needs for their child. Personal plans were updated at least every six months, or when there were significant changes in a child's life.

This meant that children's current needs, wishes and choices were being consistently met, in line with parents wishes.

We saw photographs, which showed us the variety of learning experiences on offer, including several creative experiences. This gave children opportunities to design and create. There was a strong ethos of warmth, love and respect. The childminder welcomed children warmly and gave lots of hugs and praise. Children were encouraged to be kind and show regard to themselves and others. They were learning good values as they grow and develop.

Speaking with the childminder, we were confident that she understood her role in protecting children. She was aware of whom to report concerns to and possible signs of abuse. Similarly, systems were in place for recording the administration of medication. This helped to keep children safe and protected. We asked her to record accidents on separate sheets for individual children, which would ensure confidentiality.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

The childminder's home was a safe, pleasant and comfortable environment. The spacious living room provided space for children to play and be creative. A large garden offered opportunities for children to be active. They were outdoors as much as possible, appreciating the benefits of fresh air and active play.

We saw that the home was of a very high standard of cleanliness and that toys were well maintained. Children had easy access to a wide variety of play resources to suit their ages and stage of development, which offered choice and promoted independent learning.

The childminder risk assessed the environment and followed infection control procedures very well. This ensured that children's care, safety and wellbeing needs were being consistently met. Similarly, fire drills were carried out effectively and recorded. Children were safe and protected from harm.

Children were given the opportunity to appreciate and make use of the local and wider community. There were regular visits to toddler groups, soft play, parks and to the 'Minnows' (a music and movement group led by a dance teacher). Children also benefitted from outings to a variety of exciting places during school holiday periods, including; trips to Pittencreiff Park in Dunfermline (where children took their picnic lunch and enjoyed feeding nuts to the squirrels), train rides and trips to Briarlands Farm. This gave them opportunities to assess and manage risks, develop confidence during physical play and be active participants in their community. Being active and healthy supported children's all round health and wellbeing.

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 experienced childminder had cared for the children for several years and knew them and their parents very well. As a result, she managed a very good service and was knowledgeable in child development. Children were very comfortable in her care and parents felt reassured and had positive trusting relationships with her. The childminder told us that she had informed parents that she was going to retire from childminding next year. The childminder was planning the transition period to closing her service around children and family's needs. This would ensure that children were supported to move on to nursery, school or another childcare provision well prepared and at an appropriate time to meet their needs.

We reviewed the policies and procedures that the childminder shared with families. She kept these well organised and they clearly showed relevant information and expectations of the service. This ensured that parents appropriately received and understood important and necessary information.

The childminder adopted an open and welcoming ethos where children and parents were able to express their views and give feedback and used this to keep her service under review. She had formalised this by using questionnaires, which were supporting her in responding to children and parent's needs. This helped children and parents feel respected and included in the development of the service.

The childminder kept up to date with legislation regarding child protection and first aid. We signposted her to make use of the range of best practice documents available at www.careinspectorate.com. These included 'Food Matters' and 'Our Creative Journey'. We suggested that she used these to support her knowledge and enhance practice contributing to children's positive outcomes. Similarly, we reminded the childminder about the 'Health and Social Care Standards' and 'Building the Ambition', which she could use to help her review her service further.

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	
8 Aug 2017	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
26 Aug 2015	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
5 Jun 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
9 Mar 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
29 Aug 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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