

Hutt, Mary

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 29 July 2021

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2003907519

Care service number:
CS2003013867

Introduction

Mary Hutt is currently registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16 years, of whom a maximum of six will be under 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under the age of 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

Other conditions unique to the service: Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate. Overnight service will not be provided.

The service is provided from the childminder's home which is located within a residential area of Smithton, Inverness.

The main areas used to provide the service are a living room and a large garden at the rear of the property which is dedicated to the service. The childminder provides a service to six registered children throughout the week .

The services aims and objectives included: "To provide a safe, warm, stimulating environment for children. I am committed to providing continuity of care and work in partnership with parents."

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection. This was carried out on 29 July 2021. Feedback was given to the childminder on 29 July 2021. During this inspection, we gathered evidence from various sources, including inspection of premises, policies 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 SHANNARRI wellbeing indicators.

Views of people using the service

During this inspection we spoke with two parents. Both parents were very happy with the service provided, they particularly liked the home from home environment their children experienced, comments included:

"She goes out of her way and is very flexible to help (child) and us."

"Uses a diary and WhatsApp to share pictures of their day, we can see what he is doing."

"Mary has arranged the layout outside so we can speak to her while the children continue playing safely."

"(Child) loves going, it's like a home from home environment, she adapts to the children, follows their interests, makes sure there are lots of different resources for them."

"They get out and about a lot, meetings lots of people and speaking about what they see."

"Takes on board her training, always asks what she can do better, really good at evaluating herself."

"We are really happy with everything."

"Mary and (child) get on very well."

"The setting is great, there is a lot for the kids to do."

"Takes (child) for a walk around the street in the morning to settle her in."

"Our next daughter will go there."

"I would recommend Mary highly to anyone looking for a childminder."

"She has a heart of gold."

Self assessment

The childminder had submitted a fully completed self-assessment. We found the information contained in the self-assessment reflected the service that the childminder provides through our observations during the inspection.

What the service did well

The childminder maximised the use of the outdoor environment, both in her garden and by regularly accessing the local environment. Children benefited from fresh air and exercise daily.

The childminder provided a flexible and accommodating service. She knew the families very well.

What the service could do better

The childminder should consider reducing plastic toys in the garden and further develop the use of loose parts to support children's curiosity and creativity.

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

Children experienced warm and nurturing care from the childminder. The childminder had developed a strong bond with the minded children. She told inspectors about the children's current interests and was responsive to their needs, supporting them well while they were in her care. Children felt safe and secure as a result.

Children could access a well-balanced range of toys and resources which allowed them to follow their interests. The childminder made meaningful observations of the children's play and had introduced more loose parts to promote the children's imagination and curiosity. Children were supported to progress at their own pace and achieve their potential.

The childminder knew the children's preferences, routines and needs well. Daily conversations with parents at drop off and pick up meant that information was easily shared. The parents we spoke with felt well informed about their child's day and that they could discuss any concerns in confidence with the childminder. Children received the care they needed because of this.

Children took part in a variety of different activities which promoted exercise and a healthy lifestyle, the childminder made good use of local parks and woodlands. This included a recent trip to meet a child who attended in term time only, this allowed the children to maintain their friendships. The childminder provided waterproof suits for each child so that all children could benefit from and enjoy the experiences provided outdoors.

Effective infection control measures were in place ensuring a safe environment for children, there was access to an outside sink, so children were able to wash their hands as they arrived and left the childminders home. The parents we spoke to felt that the childminder had kept them well informed about any changes to guidance. The childminder maintained physical distancing with other adults whilst continuing handovers at the door.

Comprehensive procedures were in place for the administration of any medication. The childminder had effective systems in place to record any medication that was required by the children in her care. The childminder was confident in her role to safeguard children and protect them from harm. She had undertaken training in child protection and had a good understanding of the signs of possible abuse and the procedures to follow if concerned.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

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

Children experienced a welcoming, home from home environment that made them feel safe and secure. The childminder had added shades and sun sails to the garden area to protect children from rain and the sun. This meant children could spend a lot of time outside in the fresh air which allowed them to be active and supported their health and wellbeing. We saw that children were confident playing in this area, accessing larger play equipment, supported by the childminder when needed. We discussed reducing the number of plastic toys in the garden, this would give space for more loose parts and provide further opportunity for children to be creative. Children had the opportunity to grow plants, investigate their natural environment,

look for wildlife and to enjoy water play. These resources helped children to develop their curiosity and both their gross and fine motor skills.

We saw that in the living room toys and resources had been organised to make them accessible to children. The childminder had a good understanding of how children play and learn, she had added meaningful resources to support children's imagination and curiosity. During the inspection we observed a child select more loose parts to add to her play with blocks and boxes. Children were able to make choices independently and directed their own play.

Children could access furniture that was right for them. The childminder provided appropriately sized table and chairs for the children to play and eat at together. Children had access to soft furnishings where they could relax.

The children enjoyed daily dog walks with the childminder and her dog. This provided the children with further opportunities to investigate, explore and be included in their local community as well as learning how to look after animals. They could also help look after the pet rabbits that lived in the garden. Children were developing their compassion and nurturing skills.

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 performance in this quality theme was very good.

The childminder kept up to date with best practice by regularly accessing the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) website and the Care Inspectorate Hub.

She discussed using early curriculum guidance such as Realising the Ambition to develop her own understanding of how to best support the children in her care. Children experienced high quality care and support based on relevant guidance and best practice.

The childminder had training in core areas such as first aid and child protection. She was committed to furthering her skills and knowledge and had accessed a wide range of further training including virtually

attending a conference on play-based learning. She used the knowledge and personal understanding gained from this to support children to have ownership of their play. We found that the childminder was confidently able to reflect on her own learning and that this had a positive impact on the children in her care.

Information regarding health and safety checks, risk assessments, daily tasks and children's development was recorded daily on an online app, Baby Days. The childminder showed inspectors records of sun cream application during the inspection. Parents were able to see this had been done and were confident that the childminder was making sure their children were safe.

Clear and concise policies were in place. These were shared as part of the welcome pack and were available via the childminder's website so that parent had clear expectations of how the service operated.

The childminder had effective quality assurances processes in place. She consulted with parents regularly to gather feedback about the service she was providing. The parents we spoke with told us that the childminder had developed strong relationships with them and that she always sought their opinions on the care their children received. She self-evaluated her service using the wellbeing indicators of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). This helped her to assess the children's development and keep them safe. She was aware of the Early Years Framework and said that she would use this to strengthen her self-evaluation process.

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

Recommendation 1

When a child requires medication, the childminder should administer and record this safely and share all information with parents and carers. The childminder should improve the paperwork she uses in order to reflect best practice and current legislation.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that as a child, any treatment that I experience is safe and effective (HSCS 1.24)

This recommendation was made on 8 January 2020.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had introduced new and effective processes for administration of medication.

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
26 Nov 2019	Unannounced	<div>Care and support</div> <div>Environment</div> <div>Staffing</div> <div>Management and leadership</div> <div>4 - Good</div> <div>3 - Adequate</div> <div>Not assessed</div> <div>3 - Adequate</div>

Date	Type	Gradings	
22 Mar 2016	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good Not assessed 6 - Excellent
29 Feb 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent Not assessed 6 - Excellent Not assessed
26 Nov 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent Not assessed 6 - Excellent Not assessed
13 May 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

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