

Wellie Boots Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 13 November 2017

Service provided by:
Sharon and Peter Stoneman a
partnership

Service provider number:
SP2011983150

Care service number:
CS2011305296

The service

Introduction

This service was registered with the care inspectorate on 4 February 2013.

The childminders are registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 9 children under the age of 16 years at any one time, of whom no more than 8 are under 12 years and of whom no more than 6 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 2 are under 12 months. These maximum numbers are when both childminders are present. When only one childminder is available to the service, then the care service may provide care to a maximum of 6 children under the age of 16 of whom no more than 6 are under 12 years and whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminders' family.

Wellie Boots benefits from a rural setting and operates within a in a two storey farm-house, in Kennethmont near Huntly. They provide a child friendly environment with an emphasis on the outdoors and many opportunities for children to enjoy outings.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. Getting it right for every child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child. They are: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following a short notice announced inspection carried out by us on 13 November 2017.

During the inspection we spoke with the childminder and discussed how they gave care and support to minded children. We looked at some documents including child information records, policies and procedures.

Views of people using the service

Minded children were found to be happy, relaxed and confident with the childminders. They were very settled in their environment, enjoyed their conversations with the childminders and seemed happy within the service.

We sent three Care Standards Questionnaires (CSQs) to the service to distribute to relatives or carers of children who use the service and these were returned to us before the inspection. We also had feedback from two parent/carers by email, who indicated they were very happy with the service provided. They made positive comments on the support received, children's progress since attending the service and the relationships between their child and the childminders. Parent's comments are included within this report. As a result of this information we concluded that the children and parents were happy with the service they received.

Self assessment

We received a completed self assessment document from the service provider. This contained information which identified strengths and areas for the future development of the service. This was completed to a satisfactory standard.

What the service did well

The childminders had created a warm, happy and inclusive environment. Minded children received a service that was tailored to meet their needs. Parents and children's voices were valued by the childminders. Parents and carers advised that they felt involved in the service and that the childminders keep them updated regularly.

What the service could do better

The childminders should continue with their plans to develop their service to promote positive outcomes for children.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
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

At this inspection, we found the service to be providing an excellent quality of care and support. We looked at how the childminders gathered information about minded children and how this was used to plan children's care, learning and development. This included the required information to be kept as well as good practice records.

The childminders provided various ways for parents/carers to have input into how the service is provided. They used questionnaires for more formal overall assessments of how their service is provided and used email to share information with parents on a daily basis. Sharing information this way with parents and children meant that they were able to respond quickly to concerns and tailor the service to suit how the children were feeling on a day-to-day basis. Both parents and the childminders advised of how beneficial they found these exchanges.

Personal plans, next steps and observations were used to gather, plan and monitor how children were progressing. These were completed with and reviewed by parents/carers. Both childminders were very knowledgeable about the children in their care and were able to demonstrate how they meet their needs. We discussed in-depth how they had tailored their service to accommodate and offer extra support for some children at different points in their lives. Minded children seemed relaxed and comfortable with both childminders. Daily music and reading was provided to promote language and communication. Children were

very settled with and they particularly enjoyed sing-a-long time with the guitar. Healthy choices for snacks, lunches and dinners were provided by the service. These were homemade and had taken children's individual tastes and preferences into account. Parents had also been involved in developing the menu.

The services website has an area specifically for parents/carers which has private access to the services risk assessments, wellbeing indicators, improvement plan, menu and policies. This encourages parents to keep up-to-date with the requirements of a registered service and the legislation and best practice that informs how the childminders provide the service.

Parents commented "They make me feel they love my son and its a pleasure to have him. We trust them very much and know our son is in very good hands", "With warmth, empathy, individual attention, patience, encouragement, and the benefit of huge experience. This is the most child-centered setting I have experienced... The most important thing for me is how well the carers know my child, and nobody knows him as well as Sharon apart from (his family). The children are encouraged to spend plenty of time outdoors, which in my view is a need children have, and it should be their right to spend time in a richly stimulating outdoor environment everyday, for as long as possible and not just 20 minutes. This is exactly what Wellie Boots provides", "Also I am particularly impressed with the responsibility they foster; getting the children involved in seasonal outdoor activities such as how to do weeding and looking after pets are important skills that I am keen to have him develop to boost his respect of the environment and the plants and animals in it" and "One thing which is very important to me is the type of parenting/care the childminder provides. It is very child led and evidence based. My childminder is very clued up and aware of attachment theory practices/child development etc".

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 - excellent

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

At this inspection we considered how the designated childminding areas were maintained to ensure children were safe and protected for harm and how well the childminding areas were used. All aspects considered were met. We gathered evidence through viewing the childminding areas and equipment, examining relevant records and observing how the children used the environment, local community and resources.

The childminders home was welcoming, warm and spacious. Their living room and kitchen were used by minded children to be involved in different activities. There was space to play and also space for quieter activities. They advised that the resources changed dependent on who was attending that day and we discussed how they engaged with older children.

They were able to provide a wide range of activities from home. They had a very large garden for children to use which had recently been refurbished with new swings, a chute and climbing frame for children of all ages. A new

mud kitchen and outdoor easel was also provided for children. They had access to mud pits and areas for digging and exploring. The childminder advised that they had recently bought torches so that older children could explore the garden in the dark as the focus for outdoor learning had been promoted with children and families.

Risk assessments are in place and the childminder is aware of their responsibilities in keeping them up-to-date and relevant for the service being provided. Infection control procedures were in place and children were able to follow the routine. A cleaner provides a deep clean of different parts of the house on a weekly basis. The kitchen had recently been upgraded with new décor and flooring. They advised that the bathroom was next inline for upgrading.

Parents commented about the environment: "Their belief in outdoor education is one of the main reasons I like my son to attend which is what I feel sets them apart from other providers. They are full of ideas about simulating the children outdoors and as a consequence our son absolutely loves the outdoors" and "There is a wide range of toys and activities both inside and outside. All toys are appropriate for (my child's) age and any that aren't they have a clear policy for and offer an alternative... A lot of time is spent outdoors in the large garden...which is one of the main reasons I chose to send my child there".

We concluded that children were being cared for from within an environment that was well-maintained, had appropriate safety measures in place and was well-resourced. The childminders ensured that systems were in place to keep children safe and respected their privacy.

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

At this inspection, we considered how the childminders evaluated the service, made improvements and kept informed of best practice and legislation. All aspects considered were met. We gathered evidence through viewing relevant records and discussions on training and development opportunities.

The childminders have been proactive in keeping their practice, skills and knowledge up to date. They were able to discuss with us how their training and research had changed and improved outcomes for children. They were committed to providing the very best care for children and were proactive in ensuring that any support needs

children had, that they accessed information to help support them. For example they had created a risk assessment document about children leaving services unattended due to this being highlighted in a Care Inspectorate bulletin.

They shared the services development plan with parents so that they were kept up to date with the experiences the childminders were providing and how they linked into children's individual needs. This showed that children's needs were respected and parents input was valued. We discussed the changes ahead for early years childcare. They were very keen to develop their existing service and become part of wider improvements in early years.

Parents commented "I always feel well included and consulted. Feedback and parent input is often sought in newsletters. Sharon is very attentive to progress and knows (my child) very well, so she mentions to me when he's acquired a new interest or skill, and it always is accurate..." and "Sharon is always more than willing to discuss issues like this face to face and we regularly talk about his progress and discuss next steps.....They really take the time to understand the needs and best techniques to progress with each child".

We concluded that the childminders provided a very good service which promoted children's health, safety and wellbeing and supporting them to reach positive outcomes.

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

In order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children the childminders should ensure that infection, prevention and control procedures are correctly implemented to prevent any bacteria or toxins being transferred from outdoor footwear into the childminding environment.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 years – Standard 2: A Safe Environment; Standard 3: Health and Wellbeing; Standard 14: Well-Managed Service.

This recommendation was made on 12 February 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

This recommendation has been met. The service uses bootie coverings for visitors shoes and children take their shoes off at the front door before entering the house.

Recommendation 2

In order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children the childminders should review and update their proforma for obtaining written permission to administer medication.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 – Standard 3: Health and wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 12 February 2016.

Action taken on previous recommendation

This recommendation has been met. The services policy and procedure had been updated inline with best practice guidelines.

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 Jan 2016	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
3 Feb 2014	Announced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

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