

Ballencrieff Childminding Service

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 28 November 2018

Service provided by:
Bouglet, Emma

Service provider number:
SP2012983882

Care service number:
CS2012310569

Introduction

Ballencrieff Childminding Service registered with the Care Inspectorate in October 2012. The service is provided by Emma Bouglet (referred to as the childminder throughout this report). The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school, of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family.

From 9 October 2017 until 24 August 2018 on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, between 12:30 and 16:30, a care service may be provided to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than four are not yet attending primary school, of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family. This element of the condition applies to the children named in the variation application dated 2 July 2017. Should any of the children leave the service or no longer require care, this element of the condition becomes invalid. Numbers include the childminder's own children.

The service is provided from the childminder's home in Ballencrieff, Longniddry. This is a rural location and the house is situated within a small development surrounded by fields. The areas of the house used by the children include a lounge, kitchen and toilet facilities. There is a secure patio area to the rear of the house where children can play.

The aim of the service is:

"To provide a home from home environment for your children where every child is treated equally and feels valued, safe and secure in our family home".

What we did during our inspection

We carried out an unannounced inspection on Thursday 8 November 2018 between 09:30 and 10:25. We returned to the service on Friday 9 November 2018 between 9:40 and 11:20 to complete the inspection. We provided final feedback to the childminder by telephone on Wednesday 28 November 2018.

On the first day of the inspection there were three minded child present, all of whom were not yet attending primary school. On the second day there were no minded children present.

During the inspection, we observed the interactions between the childminder and the children. We spoke to the childminder about the service she provided and observed children in their play. We walked around all areas of the home used by minded children. We looked at the resources available and the use of space. We looked at relevant paperwork and documents related to the service and the children who used it. We discussed the childminder's policies and procedures, as well as looking at any quality assurance information.

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, included.

Views of people using the service

Children presented as happy and relaxed in the childminder's care. They played happily together and looked for reassurance and support from the childminder when required.

Following the inspection we received feedback via email from one parent who said, "From the beginning, my child has always been happy to attend and looks forward to the day's activities, whether it's crafts, baking, or a walk on the beach. I believe that my child is so happy in Emma's care because she has been nurtured, encouraged, and generally treated like one of Emma's own children. The respondent also said, "I have also found Emma's flexibility to be invaluable - she is happy to go above and beyond to accommodate if at all possible."

Self assessment

Following the inspection visits the childminder submitted a self-assessment. This reflected what she had done in the previous year and outlined the strengths of her service. We discussed how the childminder could better use her self assessment to promote improvements in the service.

What the service did well

Children experienced warm and responsive care meaning they were nurtured and secure with the childminder. Children were active and included in their local community as the childminder made good use of nearby resources and experiences. Positive relationships with parents helped ensure children experienced a continuity of care between home and the childminder's care.

What the service could do better

Children would benefit from more access to open-ended natural materials within their play. This would further develop their natural curiosity and inquiry skills. The childminder should continue to engage in training and best practice guidance to ensure that she continues to provide positive experiences for children.

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

Children were happy and engaged in their play. We could see that children had developed positive bonds with each other and the childminder. Through play, children used their imaginations to develop their own ideas.

Children were able to relax throughout the inspection visit and have some quiet time away from the play if they wished.

Children were nurtured and respected as the childminder knew them well and understood their different needs and personalities. This meant they received care that was right for them and promoted their self-esteem and confidence. The childminder gathered information prior to children starting and then regularly updated their personal plans so that children experienced a continuity of care. We discussed with childminder how she could begin to develop children's personal plans to consider the wellbeing indicators. This would help the childminder to effectively track children's progress and development. We will follow this up at the next inspection.

Children were active and achieving as they took part in a number of experiences linked to their own interests and ideas. For example, the childminder had incorporated a trip to see some horses as a parent had shared their child had been talking about horses at home. This showed the childminder planned activities that were flexible and responsive. Children were learning about the environment and developing their responsibilities as the childminder made good use of the local beach, where she supported children to safely litter pick whilst there.

Children were provided with nutritious meals and snacks that helped them develop positive eating habits. The childminder was aware of the best practice guidance 'Setting the Table' (NHS, Scotland) and was able to evidence how she ensured children had a healthy, balanced diet whilst in her care.

Children were safe as the childminder had a good understanding of any medical needs and was clear on how to manage these. Children were protected from harm, as the childminder evidenced how she would respond to and report any child protection concerns.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Children were active and included because the childminder made very good use of the local community. Children experienced a variety of activities that promoted their learning, such as trips to local woodlands, castles and animal centres. Children regularly accessed fresh air and took part in experiences that promoted their physical development. This included regular walks and trips to different play parks.

Children were able to access a variety of toys, games, books and activities within the childminder's home. Comments from parents suggested that these provided children with appropriate stimulation. On the day of the inspection, children were using some puppets and small world figures and it was evident that these were promoting their imaginations and communication skills. We discussed with the childminder how she could develop more opportunities for children to make fully independent choices about what they played with by

further developing the layout of resources for each session. We discussed how the childminder could introduce more open-ended natural materials and 'Loose Parts' to children's play. These resources can further promote children's curiosity and inquiry and open up a variety of interesting play experiences. We signposted the childminder to a variety of documents on the 'Care Inspectorate Hub' that would support her to consider this area of development.

Children were safe as the childminder's home was clean and organised. Risk assessments were in place and reviewed meaning the childminder could manage any changes to the environment and make adjustments as required. The childminder had effective procedures in place for managing accidents and ensuring parents were informed of any accidents that their child had whilst in the childminder's care. The childminder had a clear system for managing and administering medication that helped promote children's health and safety. We asked the childminder to ensure that she recorded on the medication forms that the child had received the first dose prior to attending the service. We were confident that she would adapt her paperwork to better reflect this. There were good procedures in place for managing infection control meaning children were cared for in a clean and healthy environment. Children were learning about how to keep themselves healthy through regular hand washing.

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

Children and families were respected as the childminder had developed positive and open relationships that promoted the development of partnership working. One parent told us, "The level of communication in relation to my child's care is excellent, so I am kept up to date on activities, food, and any issues that may require attention."

Parents and children were welcomed into the childminder's home with individualised settling in procedures that respected the child's specific needs. Information gathered by the childminder was organised and stored in a way that ensured it remained up to date. This meant the childminder held the key information to keep children safe and effectively meet their care needs.

Children were safe, as the childminder had developed her knowledge and confidence in relation to managing any child protection concerns. The childminder had sourced online information that helped inform her practice. The childminder had also updated her procedure for recording any concerns and ensured this was stored in an appropriate and confidential manner. Whilst we were confident that since the last inspection the childminder had enhanced her knowledge and understanding in this area, she still planned to undertake a child protection course. We will follow this up at the next inspection.

The childminder was aware of the current 'Health and Social Care Standards'. We discussed how she could use these to ensure her practice and the service continues to provide positive outcomes for children and families.

The childminder was aware of when and how to make notifications to the Care Inspectorate. This meant the childminder could work in partnership with the Care Inspectorate to help promote children's safety and wellbeing. We asked the childminder to make a notification to us requesting that the condition regarding being registered to have an additional child could be removed. This is because this condition had expired. We were confident that childminder would do this.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

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

In order to promote children's wellbeing we recommend that the childminder undertakes a child protection training course. This is to support the development of her knowledge and confidence in relation to safeguarding procedures for children.

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

This recommendation was made on 24 January 2018.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had sourced online resources that had enhanced her knowledge and understanding in relation to child protection issues. The childminder had updated her paperwork to ensure that any information she stored was recorded in an effective and confidential way. The childminder had been unable to attend a child protection training course, however was able to evidence that her practice and the procedures she would follow were effective in safeguarding children. The childminder planned to source an online child protection course, we were confident that the childminder would continue with this plan and will follow up on this at the next inspection. In respect of the recommendation made at the last inspection, we conclude that this has been met.

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
21 Dec 2017	Unannounced	Care and support
		Environment
		Staffing
		4 - Good
		4 - Good
		Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	3 - Adequate
28 Feb 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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