

Howatson, Tracey

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 12 February 2019

Service provided by:
Howatson, Tracey

Service provider number:
SP2007966217

Care service number:
CS2007158478

Introduction

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com. This service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred registration to the Care Inspectorate on 01 April 2012.

The childminding service is provided by Tracey Howatson, referred to as the childminder in this report.

The childminder is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of five 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 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The childminding service is provided from the childminder's home in a residential area of Edinburgh. The home is a top floor flat.

The childminder had developed aims and objectives for her service which were shared with parents through the information she provided at the start of each placement. Aims included:

'I aim to provide a safe, friendly environment by treating each child as an individual.'

What we did during our inspection

We carried out an unannounced inspection on Monday 11 of February between 9.15 and 11.15. We provided feedback to the childminder by phone on Tuesday 12 of February.

On the day of inspection there were four 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 observed all areas of the home used by the 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 childminders 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

Three questionnaires were sent out to the childminder to distribute to parents prior to the inspection. All three were completed and returned, with positive feedback.

"Tracey is a great childminder, she provides a real home from home"

"Tracey's home is always clean, she has toys suitable for all ages which are always kept clean"

"My child has learned to share and play nicely"

"My child doesn't always like to leave me at drop off point but Tracey reassures and comforts her".

"My son gets taken to the local soft play and park"

"When my son first started we had a long discussion on how best to care for my son"

Self assessment

The childminder had submitted the self assessment prior to the inspection and had highlighted both strengths and areas of development for the service

What the service did well

Children experienced warm and responsive care showing they were nurtured and secure with the childminder. Positive relationship with parents helped to ensure children experienced a continuity of care between home and in the care of the childminder. The childminder made good use of the local community resources with a range of both varied and interesting experiences for children.

What the service could do better

Children would benefit from more opportunities to explore open-ended 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 presented as happy, confident and relaxed in the care of the childminder who offered a warm caring approach in making the children feel nurtured and secure. The children played well together supported by the childminder who encouraged them to have respect and empathy for each other during their play.

The childminder knew the children well and had all relevant information for them in personal plans which informed how to meet their needs, interests and ideas. The plans were reviewed with parents regularly to keep the information current and relevant in providing a continuity of care and in meeting positive outcomes for children. The childminder had trusting relationships with parents and used a range of methods in communicating with them to share information and to celebrate children's achievements.

Children were respected by the flexible approach the childminder had adopted to the settling in policy process. Information was gathered prior to the children starting and the childminder was responsive in meeting individual needs allowing them time to build a bond and feel secure.

Children had many opportunities to be healthy and active through a variety of experiences that were child led. The childminder used the principles of 'Getting it Right for Every Child' (also known as GIRFEC).

Learning plans had been developed for the children and photographs were used to celebrate achievements and experiences. The childminder should continue to develop and record observations of children in order to track progress and provide further challenge in their learning outcomes.

The childminder had a healthy eating policy in place in line with the national guidance document setting the table. On the day of inspection some of the children had requested snacks that did not meet with the policy or the guidance. We asked the childminder to revisit the policy and provide a range of snacks that were nutritious and encouraged healthy eating that helps shape children's future eating habits.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Children were offered a warm and welcoming environment within a clean, tidy and uncluttered home. The children were able to move freely around different areas of the house making them feel respected and included.

The childminder did a visual inspection of the environment prior to the children arriving. The nappy area was well prepared and safe as the childminder followed infection and control guidance however two of the older children did not wash their hands prior to having snack during the inspection. We discussed with the childminder the need to follow best practice guidance in preventing the spread of infection.

Children were respectful of the environment and as part of the daily routine tidied toys away before moving onto another activity, building a sense of responsibility. Children had space to be active and also to rest if they wanted. On the day of inspection one of the children took time to relax on the sofa for a short while as the others played. The childminder was in the process of developing a spare bedroom into a further play area for the children which could allow for further active areas separate from areas to be restful.

Resources were accessible to the children with a varied range of materials. We discussed with the childminder how introducing more open-ended materials and natural resources could support children's natural learning through curiosity and inquiry. Open ended materials 'loose parts' are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. They can empower children's imagination and creativity as well as encouraging them to explore and manage risk. The childminder was planning to develop this area of play.

Children were included in the local and wider community. The childminder accessed local toddler groups, the

local park and walks along the canal providing children with opportunities to learn about nature and the world around them. During school holidays outings were planned around the interests of the children and included soft play centres and city museums.

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

The childminder had a number of policies and procedures in place to promote children's wellbeing and to support the effective delivery of the service.

Parents were included in their child's sessions through regular updates and discussion with the childminder. Parents were positive in their feedback and commented that their opinions were asked for when the childminder was thinking of any changes, and that their views were always taken into account.

The childminder evaluated the service through the completion of the self-evaluation requested by the Care Inspectorate prior to the inspection. The self-assessment evidenced the childminders understanding of good practice

We discussed with the childminder the importance of keeping abreast with best practice guidance and training to ensure the experiences for the children are meaningful, rich and high quality. The childminder should further develop her knowledge of national guidance document 'Building the Ambition' (Scottish Government) in continuing to enhance children's wellbeing and creativity. We advised the childminder to access the Care Inspectorate Hub for best practice guidance of "My Childminding Experience" and 'Our creative Journey' which support childminders to develop the key skills they need to promote long-term quality outcomes for children.

The childminder has access to training opportunities through her local childminding group in partnership with The Scottish Childminding Association. She will be updating her first aid training in May 2019 and is waiting for a confirmed date to update her child protection.

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

Children's scrapbooks could be further developed to enable the childminder to track each young child's development. National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 6 - Support and development.

This recommendation was made on 10 October 2014.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had developed a learning log using photographs as evidence to celebrate experiences and achievements and continues to build on recording observations.

This recommendation 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	
10 Oct 2014	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
13 Oct 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
15 Dec 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
7 Jan 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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