

Neilson, Anthea Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 19 March 2019

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2007966976

Care service number:
CS2007162152

Introduction

Ms Anthea Neilson, referred to as the childminder throughout this report, provides her childminding service from her home in a residential area of Edinburgh. Her home is close to local amenities and transport links. The areas of her home used for childminding purposes are the lounge with dining area, downstairs toilet and supervised access to the kitchen.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children under the age of sixteen of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom not more than one is under twelve months. These numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

Included in the stated aims of the service was 'to strive to provide an environment which is caring, fun and stimulating'.

What we did during our inspection

We carried out an unannounced inspection on the 19 March 2019. There were two minded children present and the childminder's own child.

During the inspection, we observed the interactions between the childminder and the minded children. We spoke to the childminder about the service she provided and observed the 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 use it.

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

We spoke with one minded child during the inspection she was very happy, her comments are included in the body of the report.

We spoke to one parent, who was very happy about the service provided to her children. They said "I came to visit before we started to use the service. I liked the natural resources and the opportunities for outdoor play. Both of my children are very happy. Anthea is very open and speaks to me daily."

We sent three care standard questionnaires to the service prior to the inspection, none were returned to us.

Self assessment

A self assessment was not submitted prior to the inspection. We discussed with the childminder the importance of submitting a self assessment when requested to do so.

What the service did well

Children were nurtured and safe as the childminder's home provided a secure and homely environment. Children were included and respected as the childminder had a very kind, calm and caring manner. This helped children to develop a sense of security and positive relationships.

What the service could do better

When the garden has been developed the childminder should write a risk assessment for the area. She should ensure that she submits a self assessment when requested to do so.

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 respected and nurtured because the childminder had a very calm, kind, and compassionate manner. She used positive praise and encouraging language that supported children to enjoy the activities on offer and helped them to achieve at a variety of tasks. Children's independence was promoted as they helped to prepare their own snacks and took part in appropriate hygiene routines.

Children were nurtured and included, as the childminder knew them well. Children's experiences reflected their interests and needs as the childminder used her knowledge of them to plan fun and interesting activities. Personal plans held detailed information that the childminder used to offer a continuity of care between the child's home and her service. The childminder ensured children's personal plans were reviewed and updated every six months or sooner if required. Therefore, parent's views were respected and children's wellbeing was promoted as the information held was accurate and reflected their current needs. Regular communication with parents resulted in them being included in their child's experiences with the childminder.

We observed the relaxed and happy interaction between the childminder and the minded children. The older minded child told us that she enjoyed coming after school and playing with the childminder's child and the other children who attended on different days. She said "I like coming here, Anthea is kind and funny".

The childminder was sensitive and calm with the younger minded child who had additional support needs. She was very informed about his needs, likes and dislikes and had ensured that she could meet them. They cuddled and laughed together and the bond between them was apparent. She discussed the child's individual needs and unique personality.

Children were safeguarded as the childminder was aware of how and when to 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 safe and active. The layout of the property allowed free flow access between indoors and out into the secure back garden. A requirement had been made at the last inspection about ensuring children could not leave the back garden. A secure gate was now in place. This requirement has been met.

The childminder was in the process of having her garden developed, she discussed the positives this would have for the minded children. This included a large decking area for the younger minded child to play on as well as a playhouse, trampoline and a range of toys. The minded child told us that she was excited about the improvements being made in the back garden.

The childminder took the younger minded child to a group for children with additional support needs 'The very inclusive play club'. Attending this club supported the child to learn more about the world around them and mix with other children and also enabled the childminder to find out about strategies and techniques to support the child. She had incorporated these into the care of the child. She had made a calm cosy space for the child to rest and sleep. A variety of natural resources were available as well as sensory resources which we saw the child enjoy playing with, such as singing bowl, twinkling lights and a harp.

A variety of art and crafts activities were available for the older minded children. The older minded child told us that she enjoyed playing in the garden, in the play house, making dens and doing arts and crafts.

The childminder said that her practice was inspired by Reggio Emilia and Montessori. She provided natural unstructured materials so that children could be creative, imaginative, explore and investigate. She also spent time outdoors with the children, which contributed to their overall well-being as they had opportunities for physical exercise and fresh air.

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 demonstrated a very good knowledge of childcare and child development. She kept up to date with best practice through a variety of ways, including being a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA), The Care Inspectorate publications and website, magazine articles and online research. This helped to keep her up to date with new initiatives and current best practice.

The childminder had undertaken training in courses First aid, safeguarding children and understanding depression and low mood in young children to allow her to meet the needs of the children she cared for. She was currently learning 'sign-a-long' to support a minded child. This demonstrated her commitment to providing positive outcomes for the children in her care.

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. These were shared with parents so they knew what to expect and had the relevant information required.

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

Requirement 1

The provider must ensure the outdoor environment is safe for children to use. In order to do this a gate must be erected at the side of the house to ensure children cannot leave the rear garden unsupervised.

This is to comply with SSI 2011/210 10 (1)(2) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 Fitness of Premises.

Timescale: two months from receipt of this report.

This requirement was made on 21 May 2018.

Action taken on previous requirement

During the inspection a secure gate was in place.

Met - within timescales

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
12 Mar 2018	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		4 - Good 3 - Adequate Not assessed 4 - Good

Date	Type	Gradings	
7 Mar 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
9 Nov 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate
21 Nov 2012	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed
12 Dec 2011	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate Not assessed

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