

Paterson, Jane Louise

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 22 August 2019

Service provided by:
Paterson, Jane Louise

Service provider number:
SP2003906677

Care service number:
CS2003012958

Introduction

Jane Louise Paterson (referred to as the childminder throughout this report) is registered to provide a childminding service to a maximum of eight children under 16 years, of whom a maximum of six will be under 12 years of whom no more than three are not attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family.

The service is provided from the childminder's terraced home in the town of Musselburgh, East Lothian. The childminder's home is close to local amenities such as parks, shops, woodland walks and schools.

The childminder's stated aim is "to provide a service that is well-managed and enjoyable."

What we did during our inspection

We visited the service on Thursday 22 August 2019. One Care Inspectorate early learning and childcare inspector carried out this inspection. During the inspection, there were two minded children present. Both of whom were not yet attending primary school.

During the inspection visit, we observed the interactions between the childminder and the children. We spoke to the childminder about the service provided and observed the children in their play. We walked around 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.

Views of people using the service

We spent time with the children and chatted to them as part of the inspection.

The childminder positively supported the older child to engage in conversation with the inspector and share their experiences at the service.

Prior to the inspection we sent out three Care Standard Questionnaires (CSQs), we received all three back before we visited the service. All three respondents strongly agreed with the statement, "Overall, I am happy with the quality of care my child receives at this service."

Some comments from the CSQs included:

"My child takes part in play, as well as learning, story reading and everyday tasks such as going to the shops and nursery drop off."

"I find the childminder always listens to the needs of my child and therefore, she is able to care for my child well."

"With weather permitting the childminder often has the children out in the community to the park or to the local day-centres and shops."

"The childminder has a wide range of toys and materials for my child, the toys are suitable for a range of ages also. The childminder is often buying new toys and materials for the children."

"The childminder tries to schedule formal six monthly reviews and also keeps me up to date with daily conversations and frequent phone calls/text messages. I am always kept up to date about all information regarding my child."

"Jane provides well-balanced snacks and meals. She mostly gives fruit and yoghurts for snack. She gives a range of hot meals for lunch."

"Jane has a fantastic garden with lots of activities. There is lots of structured play so the children are aware of the routine in advance."

Self assessment

A self assessment had been submitted prior to the inspection. The childminder had highlighted the strengths of the service.

What the service did well

Children experienced responsive, nurturing care and support, which helped children to develop their confidence and self-esteem. Children were active and healthy because the childminder made good use of local resources such as parks and local walks. Respectful relationships had been developed between the childminder and parents, which helped to promote positive and consistent care experiences for children.

What the service could do better

To further develop children's play experiences the childminder could introduce more open-ended natural materials to support children's natural curiosity and inquiry. To develop the service in line with current early years good practice the childminder could access additional development and learning opportunities in relation to children's play experiences.

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 received responsive and nurturing care. The childminder knew children well, which meant she could plan for their needs and respected their individual preferences. Children experienced positive transitions from home to the service because the childminder provided individualised settling in arrangements. Children were given the time they needed to develop positive attachments and feel secure.

The childminder had a warm and caring approach, which meant children were respected and nurtured. Children received encouragement, support and affection when needed. This helped them to develop their confidence and self-esteem. Children were respected as the childminder engaged them in dialogue that helped them make individual choices, for example at lunch-time. Children also enjoyed making trips to local shops to select new resources for the service.

Children took part in a range of experiences that reflected their needs and interests. Children developed their communication and language skills through stories and games. They were healthy and active as they engaged in outdoor play as part of their day.

The childminder had developed positive methods of communication with parents, which led to positive outcomes for children. Regular daily discussions and six-monthly review meetings gave parents the opportunity to discuss their child's care needs and their experiences at the service.

The childminder gathered information from parents to ensure she could effectively support children. Children's photo books, observations and experiences reflected what children enjoyed and celebrated their achievements. We discussed with the childminder how linking the photos to learning outcomes and recording children's next steps would help to further support children's learning and progress. This would provide an opportunity for the children, parents and childminder to reflect on children's progress and further discuss any next steps for learning and development.

Children's safety and wellbeing was promoted as the childminder had a good awareness of how to deal with any child protection concerns. The childminder was confident in how they would refer any concerns and access support.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

Children were included in the local community because the childminder made good use of resources and amenities. Children experienced regular trips to the local shops, woodland areas, and parks. These trips supported them to learn more about the world around them and learn new skills. Children were active and nurtured as there was a balance between activities in the home and in the wider community. Children were helped to stay safe in the local community as the childminder implemented appropriate and clear road safety measures. Children were aware of these and confidently walked alongside the childminder whilst out.

Children were able to access the large enclosed garden to the rear of the property. This provided a good space for them to be physically active and experience energetic play. Parent's comments confirmed there were a variety of resources available to children in the garden area.

The childminder's home was clean, safe and well organised, which supported children to feel relaxed in the homely environment. Children's health was supported as the childminder took appropriate steps to minimise the spread of infection.

Within the kitchen there was a comfortable dining area where children could enjoy meals and snacks together. This helped to support positive eating habits and created a sociable mealtime experience for children.

During the inspection children accessed resources from a large box of toys and engaged with some books. The childminder discussed how they reviewed resources over time to ensure they remained suitable and interesting. For example, the childminder had recently introduced some new resources as a younger child had started at the service. Through this discussion, we shared with the childminder how children would benefit from having a wider choice of open-ended natural materials to explore in their play. We discussed the use of treasure baskets for younger children and the benefits these can bring in relation to promoting children's curiosity, creativity and inquiry skills.

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 parents were respected and included because the childminder provided opportunities for them to give feedback on the service. One parent commented, "The childminder often asks me what I would recommend or discusses ideas with me as she feels it will affect me and my child." The childminder provided parents with feedback sheets, which indicated that she valued their input and used different methods to gather this information.

The childminder had created a welcoming environment and discussed examples of how she had supported parents with different aspects. For example, she remained up to date about information relating to childcare and parents' entitlements and provided emotional support during periods of transition for families.

The childminder had attended first aid, food and hygiene and child protection training since the last inspection. This supported the childminder to keep children safe and promoted their health and wellbeing. The childminder used some resources such as Building the Ambition (Scottish Government, 2014) and the Care Inspectorate magazine to inform her practice. The childminder spoke about revisiting these when she noted an area for development or wanted to refresh her knowledge. The childminder was aware of guidance such as 'Setting the Table' (NHS Scotland, 2015), which provides information on healthy eating and promotes children's wellbeing. During the inspection, we discussed how the childminder might begin to access further learning opportunities in relation to early years. For example, this might include learning more about loose parts play and other developments.

The childminder had developed a system for the management of medication. However, we found that the system for recording short-term medication needed further review to ensure that information was updated each time it came into the service. This would include ensuring the specific symptoms were recorded to help ensure clarity regarding the reason for the medication and to confirm that parents had given the child any first dose of the medication. We signposted the childminder back to the Care Inspectorate guidance, 'Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services'.

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

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	
17 May 2017	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
10 Aug 2015	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
24 Jul 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
3 Sep 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
19 Aug 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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