

Noah's Treasure Childminding Service Child Minding

Tranent

Type of inspection:
Announced (short notice)

Completed on:
20 May 2021

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2018989672

Service no:
CS2018364364

About the service

Samantha Riddell, referred to as the childminder in this report, 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 and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The service is known as, Noah's Treasure Childminding Service and is provided from the family home in the town of Tranent, East Lothian. Children have access to the ground floor of the semi-detached house. The living room is used for general activities and the kitchen is used for children to eat and for creative play. There is access to a downstairs bathroom and an enclosed rear garden.

The childminder stated that she aims to "create a map of each child. This mapping allows us to follow a child's progress as they grow independently with confidence in an encouraging, safe and secure environment."

This was a focussed inspection to evaluate how well children were being supported during the COVID-19 pandemic. We evaluated the service based on key areas that are vital to the support and wellbeing of children experiencing care during the pandemic.

What people told us

We asked the childminder to contact parents and pass on the inspectors details to allow parents to provide feedback about the service. One parent responded. They spoke very positively about the level of care that their child received and felt that the childminder kept them well informed during the pandemic. They felt the childminder had responded very well to the COVID-19 guidance and that changes to systems and procedures helped keep their child safe and well.

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	2 - Weak
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Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?

2 - Weak

5.1 : Children's health and wellbeing are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19

The childminder showed caring, nurturing relationships had been formed with the children. During the inspection, the children were confident and relaxed, showing their comfort and sense of security with the childminder. The childminder was responsive to the children's needs, supporting them to feel safe and secure.

Throughout lockdown, the childminder had continued to work with key worker families, offering a flexible service to support children and families when required. The childminder kept in touch with all other families by sending them messages through text and email. This supported positive relationships to be maintained with children and families.

Children's play and learning experiences were limited. Play resources were limited with some not accessible to children. The childminder told us that she was planning to invest in further resources and storage options. The childminder should ensure that children attending have a variety of play opportunities which suit their individual needs and provide challenge and choice. See area for improvement 1.

Personal plans were in place for each child who attended the service. These included chronologies and identified some next steps. The childminder should develop these to include more detailed information about support strategies being used. The childminder should also implement a more consistent approach to reviewing personal plans with parents and record when these discussions take place. This will further ensure that children's care is consistent, and their needs being met. See area for improvement 2.

The childminder was aware of their responsibilities to protect children from harm and had followed relevant guidance. The childminder knew the relevant authorities to contact should she have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of children.

5.2: Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff

The service had a COVID-19 policy in place and contained some of the measures in place to minimise the risk of transmission such as adult's using face masks and availability of hand sanitiser for adult use. While regular handwashing routines for children had been detailed in the policy the childminder did not follow this policy and children's hands were not washed prior to them having snack. To ensure children are kept safe the childminder should carry out handwashing at regular intervals as detailed in the current COVID-19 guidance. See area for improvement 3.

Routines across the day do not allow for sufficient time to undertake cleaning of the rooms used for minded children. For example, we found that the kitchen was disorganised and the floor was unclean with food debris and cat hair. Play resources available in the main room were also disorganised. This meant that resources were not being cleaned methodically or stored well to make them easy to clean. In line with current COVID-19 guidance, the childminder must develop and follow a cleaning schedule to ensure children are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment. See requirement 1.

The childminder did not have appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment procedures in place to ensure infection

prevention and control measures were in place. The toilet and handwashing facility used by children had mouthwash at child height accessible which posed potential risk to children. The toilet area was also being used to store cardboard boxes and books however this meant that these items could not be kept clean and were not being stored hygienically. To ensure health and hygiene measures are effective in keeping everyone safe the childminder must further develop and follow COVID-19 risk assessments. See requirement 1.

The childminder provided regular opportunities for children to spend time outdoors. This demonstrated understanding of the benefits of maximising outdoor time during COVID-19 pandemic.

Requirements

1.
To ensure children's safety and wellbeing the childminder should make sure the environment is safe and hygienic. They should also ensure resources and equipment used for childminding are stored appropriately and well organised to allow for easy cleaning. In order to achieve this by 17 June 2021 the childminder must develop and implement:

- a) systematic and effective cleaning routine in line with current COVID-19 guidance
- b) risk assessment procedures which are effective in identifying potential hazards to children

This is to comply with The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011, Scottish Statutory Instrument 2011/210 - 3 Principles, 4 (1)(a) Welfare of users

This is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards 3.14 'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes' and 5.22 'I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well maintained premises, furnishings and equipment'.

Areas for improvement

1.
To enable children to have greater choices, consideration should be given to the planning of resources and play experiences provided throughout the session. This is so that children experience a greater range of challenging and stimulating activities whilst adhering to COVID-19 infection and prevention control guidance.

This is in order to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state, 'As a child, my social and physical skills, confidence, self-esteem and creativity are developed through a balance of organised and freely chosen extended play, including using open ended and natural materials (HSCS 1.32).

2.
To ensure children's safety and wellbeing the childminder should ensure that personal plans are dated to track children's progress and include sufficient information about the support strategies being used with children. These should include include written evidence of consultation with parents where changes have been made.

This is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards 1.15 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' & 1.19 'My care and support meets my needs and is right for me'.

3. To ensure children's safety and wellbeing the childminder should ensure that children are encouraged and provided with regular opportunities for handwashing in line with current infection prevention and control guidance.

This is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards 4.11 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice'.

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

To ensure children's safety and wellbeing the childminder should ensure she has obtained relevant information for all children placed within the service. For example she should be knowledgeable and have details with regards to their care routine, health, medical and support needs. In addition, children's plans should be more in depth and reviewed regularly.

This is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards 1.15 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' & 1.19 'My care and support meets my needs and is right for me'.

This area for improvement was made on 5 July 2019.

Action taken since then

The childminder had personal plans in place and had some detail logged in chronologies. The childminder was knowledgeable about the individual care needs of children. While this area for improvement has been met we have made a further area for improvement to ensure the information is logged more clearly and includes written evidence of consultation with parents.

Previous area for improvement 2

1. To ensure children's safety and wellbeing the childminder should make sure the environment is safe and hygienic. They should also ensure resources and equipment used for childminding are hygienic and well organised.

This is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards 5.22 'I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well maintained premises, furnishings and equipment'.

This area for improvement was made on 5 July 2019.

Action taken since then

We found that the childminder lacked cleaning routines and the kitchen floor was visibly unclean. Resources were disorganised which meant that cleaning of these items was not in line with the current COVID-19 guidance for infection prevention and control. Some resources which were used by children were stored in the toilet area without sufficient or appropriate storage to allow them to be easily cleaned.

This area for improvement has not been met. We have made a further requirement at this inspection.

Previous area for improvement 3

2. To ensure children's safety the enclosed garden area to the rear of the home should be maintained to a suitable standard.

This is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards 5.17 'My environment is secure and safe'.

This area for improvement was made on 5 July 2019.

Action taken since then

The garden area appeared to be well maintained and the childminder told us she planned to extend the outdoor facilities and resources.

The area for improvement has been met.

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	2 - Weak
5.1 Children's health and well being are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19	3 - Adequate
5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff	2 - Weak

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