

Butterflies Childcare Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 22 April 2022

Service provided by:
Nicola Rennie

Service provider number:
SP2009973867

Care service number:
CS2009206059

Introduction

Butterflies Childcare is provided by Nicola Rennie (referred to in this report as the childminder) from her home in South Queensferry, Edinburgh. The childminder can care for a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age of whom no more than 6 are under 12 years; no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and; no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers include the children of the childminder's family/household. Minded children can only be cared for by persons named on the certificate and no overnight care can be provided.

The service is situated in a residential area with good links to local transport. School, nursery, shops and play parks are within walking distance.

What we did during our inspection

We carried out an unannounced inspection on Thursday 21 April 2022 between 12:30 and 13:40. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluation we:

- Spoke with the childminder and gathered further information through a telephone call
- Reviewed documents in the service
- Observed practice, daily routines and children's experiences
- Spoke with a minded child who was present
- Spoke with a parent by telephone and another parent through email.

Feedback was given by telephone call on Friday 22 April 2022.

Views of people using the service

We asked the childminder to distribute information about the inspection to parents, to get their feedback. Two parents responded and expressed their satisfaction with the care provided for their child. Both highlighted the good communication between themselves and the childminder which meant that they felt involved in their child's care.

One school aged child was present during inspection. They had lunch and started on an activity brought from home. The child engaged comfortably with the childminder throughout our visit. They told us they enjoyed spending time at the childminder's house and liked to play outside with their friends whilst there.

Self assessment

We did not request a self-assessment from the childminder prior to inspection. During the inspection we discussed how the childminder could enhance her approach to self-evaluation and planning, during inspection.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a home from home environment which supported children to feel safe and comfortable. She had built positive relationships resulting in children having nurturing and consistent care.

What the service could do better

The childminder should engage in professional development to aid improvements in the service, particularly in the following areas:

- children's personal plans should be detailed enough to monitor and review progress at least every six months with parents, to ensure children receive meaningful and consistent care
- the quality of the play experience should be enhanced through a variety of outdoor environments and the addition of loose part materials throughout.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	3 - Adequate
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	3 - Adequate

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We evaluated this theme as adequate. Whilst strengths had a positive impact on children, key areas should be improved.

Children were responded to with warmth and respect. The childminder's friendly and relaxed approach meant that children felt familiar and confident seeking out their help or input. The childminder was responsive to children's needs and requests, which reassured them they were listened to.

Children's preferences, interests and needs were known well by the childminder. Regular verbal communication with parents kept the childminder up to date with changing needs and circumstances. The childminder used this information to provide individual care and support for children where needed. Children's personal plans however, did not reflect the care and support provided. In order to monitor and review children's progress, personal plans should contain current and detailed information about their needs and wishes. We have made a recommendation about this (recommendation 1).

Children had a safe and sociable experience whilst eating together at the kitchen table. They could chat and enjoy an unhurried lunch or snack. Handwashing was also encouraged with prompts for older children when needed. During inspection, the child present ate lunch with the childminder. They reflected on their morning and made plans together for the afternoon. Children were more involved in planning activities and making decisions than previously. The childminder reported an increase in children negotiating, discussing, planning and trying different things. The childminder supported this involvement by offering her interest, options and ideas. For example, during inspection the child chose to use their own activity book from home. The childminder spent time looking through it with the child and exploring the contents.

We viewed photographs of children engaging in a range of play experiences, indoors and outside. The childminder gave examples of how they were supporting young children's literacy through books and mark-making. We discussed further ways to support children's play experience through setting up inviting and intriguing play areas which make children curious and interested.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. To further support the planning and monitoring of children's needs and progress, personal plans should have up to date information outlining their care and support, which is reviewed at least every six months with parents.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: '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'. (HSCS 1.15)

Grade: 3 - adequate

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We evaluated this key question as good. Several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and outweighed areas for improvement.

Children were welcomed into a home from home environment. They had space to play in calm and comfortable areas and space to store their belongings. Children confidently moved around using the livingroom, kitchen and upstairs toilet. Older children were encouraged to be independent whilst younger children were supported to develop these skills.

Resources for children were stored in a large cupboard in the kitchen. They were tidy and organised in boxes so children could see what was available to them. Children were then supported by the childminder to access resources when they had made their choices. The childminder understood the benefit of loose parts to promote children's imagination. She was planning to build up her store of loose part items so they could be used alongside other play resources as children wished.

Children had outdoor play each day in the fresh air. The garden was safe, accessible from the kitchen and offered various play resources. Children could freely use the play kitchen and sand pit to experiment, discover and create. We discussed examples of loose part items which could add depth and renewed interest to these resources, supporting children's imaginations.

The area to the front of the premises was also used by children for physical play such as tig. This was a grassy area safe from passing traffic. Children were enabled to consider their safety as the childminder supervised them and discussed risks.

Regular use of community amenities and spaces offered children some variety and opportunities to be involved in their community. For example, visits to the local playgroup and playparks. We suggested the childminder enhance the variety of places to visit to perhaps offer new experiences. For example, beaches and woodland spaces.

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

We evaluated this key question as adequate, as strengths just outweighed areas to be improved.

Children were more involved in planning and choosing their own activities since the last inspection. Most involvement took place verbally between children and the childminder. The childminder did notice however that this did not always work for all children and responded by being creative. For example, older children were encouraged to participate in planning through a mind map which was interesting and fun. We encouraged the childminder to develop this approach with children further.

Whilst the children were known by the childminder, there was no improvements made to personal plans since the last inspection. As a registered service, the childminder is expected to plan, monitor and review children's needs and progress alongside parents. This is to ensure children's needs are met consistently and meaningfully. Guidance on personal plans can be found on the Care Inspectorate's website The Hub.

The childminder had undertaken no training or professional development since the last inspection. This meant that current best practice was not being used to enhance experiences for children. We advised the childminder to access the Care Inspectorate's website The Hub, where she would find a range of best practice documents to support improvement in the service. For example, the document Out to Play (Scottish Government 2019) offers ideas and practical advice on how to use the natural environment for fun, interest and learning.

The childminder was knowledgeable of situations which the Care Inspectorate should be notified about such as accidents requiring medical attention. We advised the childminder to keep up to date with the changing guidance in response to the pandemic however. This would ensure the national guidance is followed in order to promote children's health and wellbeing.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. To ensure children's play experiences are high quality and meaningfully support varying age groups, the childminder should engage in professional development, including training and use of best practice documents.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice'. (HSCS 4.11)

Grade: 3 - adequate

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 for the children to reach their full potential, the childminder should provide a range of age appropriate resources and activities which reflect children's interests and offer new opportunities.

This is to reflect Health and Social Care Standard 1.30 which states "As a child I have fun as I develop my skills in understanding, thinking, investigation and problem solving, including through imaginative play and storytelling" and 2.27 which states "As a child I can direct my own play and activities in a way that I choose and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity".

This recommendation was made on 1 June 2021.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Since the last inspection, the childminder had considered how to support children to reach their full potential. The range of resources in the setting was fully available to children, because they were consulted with more. Children were enabled to make choices daily about what they wanted to play with. They could also choose whether to be indoors or outside in the garden. This meant that children were leading their own play and able to extend their own interests more fully.

The recommendation was met, however the childminder should continue to develop play experiences for children as outlined in this report.

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	
14 Sep 2021	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
10 Feb 2016	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed 4 - Good
28 Nov 2011	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good Not assessed 4 - Good Not assessed
13 Jul 2010	Announced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed

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