

Wishing Tree Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 29 April 2022

Service provided by:
Jillian Murray

Service provider number:
SP2019990700

Care service number:
CS2019376552

Introduction

Wishing Tree Childminding is provided from the childminder's home in a residential area of Bonnyrigg, Midlothian. The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age.

The service is close to local primary schools, shops, parks, and other amenities. The children are cared for in the downstairs of the property which include the dining /kitchen area, lounge and downstairs toilet. Children also have access to a secure enclosed rear garden which is directly accessed from the dining/ kitchen area.

What we did during our inspection

An unannounced inspection took place on Wednesday 27 April between 12:00 and 1:45pm. Feedback was given by telephone call on Friday 29 April 2022.

To prepare for this inspection we reviewed information about the service. This includes, registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluations we:

- spoke with three parents of children using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and play experiences
- reviewed documents.

Views of people using the service

Three parents shared feedback with us about the service. The comments we received were all positive. They told us that the childminder was very organised and kept them very well informed of their child's day. They said they felt "very lucky" to have her.

Three children were present during the inspection. We saw they were happy and having fun in the care of the childminder.

Self assessment

We did not ask the childminder for a current self assessment prior to the inspection.

What the service did well

The childminder offered a warm and nurturing approach and had strong relationships with children and their parents. Children spent time in the outdoors exploring a range of outdoor play and learning experiences. This enabled them to be physically active and contributed to their health and wellbeing.

What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to build upon the existing good practice to inform the development and improvement of the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Children were happy and content in the care of the childminder and we saw positive interactions between them. The childminder had a warm and responsive approach which supported children to feel valued and respected. Parents commented that the childminder was like "Mary Poppins" and went "above and beyond" in her care of the children.

Personal plans held all relevant information including children's needs, routines and interests. They were reviewed regularly to ensure information was current and relevant. Daily updates of children were shared with parents during pick up times, through daily diaries and Whatsapp. This contributed to parents feeling confident in the continuity of care provided and being included in their child's day. One parent told us that during the settling in period the childminder had been "very sensitive" in her approach which had made the process so much easier.

Activities were provided to support children's interests and were freely accessible for them. We saw children happy and having fun with construction toys, the mud kitchen and drawing activities. They were able to explore independently and lead their play by making their own choices. This meant they felt respected and valued. Learning journals and floorbooks recorded meaningful children's experiences and tracked children's progress. This supported the childminder to plan next steps of children's learning and development.

Healthy lifestyles were encouraged by the childminder who used the national guidance document setting the Table (NHS) to inform her practice. Snacks and lunches were provided to promote a healthy diet which included a range of fruit and vegetables. Children had recently planted a range of herbs which would be used as part of the healthy menu plan. This gives children a sense of responsibility and achievement that they have grown their own produce.

The service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe

environment for children. The childminder supported effective handwashing which was built into her daily routine with the children.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in the environment where children are cared for and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this theme as very good.

The childminder provided a warm, homely environment and we observed all areas of the childminder's home to be clean, hygienic and safe. There were appropriate infection prevention and control procedures in place which included regular cleaning and good ventilation.

Children benefitted from free flow access between the indoor and outdoor areas supporting their choices of where they wanted to play. A range of resources and activities supported their curiosity and enquiry, including natural and open ended play materials and lots of messy play in large tuff trays in the garden. Children were also able to enjoy active and energetic play with ball play and trikes.

The childminder had a clear focus of the importance of outdoor learning in her setting. To promote children's health and wellbeing she encouraged children to be outdoors as much as possible. This was supported by parents who told us that they loved the "outdoor learning approach" and their children "love being outdoors".

Children benefitted from outings in the local community including local parks and nature walks. This extended their experiences in learning about their environment and the world around them. Regular trips to the local community garden encouraged children's social interactions and they often stayed to have lunch in the garden. This supported their wellbeing and sense of belonging.

Children were protected as the childminder took all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection. Risk assessment had been undertaken that addressed areas within current Covid-19 guidance.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths with the management and leadership of the service and how this supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this theme as very good.

The childminder was committed in her approach to deliver a high standard of care and demonstrated commitment to her professional development. She had undertaken relevant training to support keeping children safe which included child protection and first aid. She was in the process of completing Children and Young People SVQ Level 3 (SCQF Level 7) and had undertaken training and self-directed study in outdoor learning and Makaton.

The childminder kept up to date with best practice guidance through a range of approaches. These included regularly accessing the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) website and the Care Inspectorate Hub. She had familiarised herself with newly introduced Quality framework (Care Inspectorate) and had been planning ways of incorporating this into her service and self evaluation process.

Effective communication with parents had helped to build trusting relationships and they told us that they were "very happy" with the information they received in terms of their child's care. This included updated guidance in line with Covid-19. They told us the regular updates meant they felt "reassured" by the childminder and her care of their children.

The childminder gathered views of children and parents through daily discussions and more formally with parents through questionnaires. Self evaluation tasks were carried out to inform the improvement and development of the service. A focus of development the childminder had identified was outdoor learning. She planned introduce more sensory and reactionary activities to further stimulate and challenge children's learning and development.

Children benefitted from the childminders commitment to the continuous improvement and development of the service. This supported them to achieve their potential.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very 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

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

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