

Inspection report

Mother Goose 3 Day Care of Children

50 Howdenhall Road
Edinburgh EH16 6PJ

Inspected by: Karen Robertson
(Care Commission Officer)

Type of inspection: Unannounced

Inspection completed on: 14 February 2007

Service Number

CS2004073689

Service name

Mother Goose 3

Service address50 Howdenhall Road
Edinburgh EH16 6PJ**Provider Number**

SP2003002973

Provider Name

Joyce Nicoll

Inspected ByKaren Robertson
Care Commission Officer**Inspection Type**

Unannounced

Inspection Completed

14 February 2007

Period since last inspection

3 months

Local Office Address

Stuart House, Eskmills, Musselburgh, EH21 7PB.

Introduction

Mother Goose 3 is one of two nurseries provided by Joyce Nicol. The service was registered with the Care Commission in 2005. The nursery is registered to care for 54 children aged between 0-14 years of whom no more than 12 shall be under 2 years. Nursery accommodation comprised of a detached two storey building set back from a busy road.

Basis of Report

As a result of feedback following the recent HMIE inspection of Mother Goose 3 the Care Commission undertook an unannounced regulatory visit on the 14th of February 2007.

This was an unannounced inspection carried out by Care Commission Officers Karen Robertson and Lesley Munro.

Discussion was held with the manager and a check of the premises both internally and externally was made.

The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 introduced new regulatory arrangements in respect of fire safety, on 1 October 2006. In terms of those arrangements, responsibility for enforcing the statutory provisions in relation to fire safety now lies with the Fire and Rescue service for the area in which a care service is located. Accordingly, the Care Commission will no longer report on matters of fire safety as part of its regulatory function, but, where significant fire safety issues become apparent, will alert the relevant Fire and Rescue service to their existence in order that it may act as it considers appropriate. Due to concerns regarding fire safety noted on the day of the visit the Care Commission has notified the Fire Officer.

Compliance with Scottish Statutory Instrument 114 was checked.

The following National Care Standards for early education and childcare up to the age of 16 were inspected:

Standard 2 A Safe Environment

Standard 14 Well Managed Service.

Action taken on requirements in last Inspection Report

One requirement made had been met two other requirements remained outstanding as a result of regulatory activity over the past 12 months.

Comments on Self-Evaluation

The self-evaluation document was not requested for this inspection.

View of Service Users

The views of service users were not formally sought. However Officers observed the interactions between staff and children were generally very positive and children appeared confident in the nursery environment.

View of Carers

The views of carers were not sought.

Regulations / Principles

Regulation 4: SSI 114 Regulation 4 (1) Welfare of Users

Strengths

No strengths were identified during this inspection.

Areas for Development

Formula milk and home-prepared food was stored inappropriately within the baby room. One bottle of milk was stored in sun light and another was found on the floor behind the blanket cover for the radiator. One child's meal brought from home was not refrigerated and was stored in direct sunlight. See requirement 1.

The sangenic bin had no lid and faeces were evident on the exposed plastic liner. Protective clothing for the changing of children's nappies was not appropriate for the purpose. Gloves and aprons did not provide sufficient protection from infection. Information was provided to the manager about where to obtain appropriate guidance on protective clothing. Throughout the nursery open bins were used for the disposal of waste, including used tissues and paper towels. Bins with lids must be provided in all playrooms and toilet areas. See requirement 2.

Hand washing procedures were inadequate. Pre-school children were washing their hands under staff supervision in a communal wash hand basin using shared water and had their hands dried using a communal towel.

Two pre-school children were observed using the upstairs toilet, unsupervised. Officers observed that children did not wash their hands after using the toilet. Officers were informed that children in the baby and tweenie rooms also washed their hands in a communal basin. See requirement 3.

Throughout the nursery the Officers noted that floors were un-swept, un-vacuumed and generally unclean. The ball pool contained a number of choking hazards including pieces of plastic and a coin. The ball pool required to be emptied and cleaned thoroughly. Toothbrushes were stored at ground level opposite the toilet area in open containers. Although the appropriate containers were used these were uncovered and dirty. The shelf that the brushes were on was also covered in dust. The manager was advised to put these brushes in the bin immediately, clean the storage receptacle and store them in an appropriate environment. The storage of toothbrushes will be monitored at the next unannounced inspection. See requirement 4.

Regulation 7: SSI 114 Regulation 7 Fitness of Managers

Strengths

No strengths were identified during this inspection.

Areas for Development

The manager has not yet commenced training that will enable her to meet the registration qualifications required by The Scottish Social Services Council. See requirement 5.

In addition to working with children the manager was cooking meals and cleaning the nursery. In discussion with the manager she stated that she had insufficient time to undertake many of her management duties as she had no dedicated, planned management time within her working week. See requirement 6.

Regulation 10: SSI 114 Regulation 10 Fitness of Premises

Strengths

No strengths were identified during this inspection.

Areas for Development

The radiators throughout the nursery were very hot to touch. The radiators in the baby room, toddler and tweenie rooms posed a serious burn risk to young children. The feeder pipes for these radiators were uncovered and were scalding to the touch. Only the radiators in on the ground floor of the nursery were equipped with guards. At the standard inspection of 21/02/06 the manager informed that suitable radiator covers were in the process of being purchased. And that at the meantime radiators were being kept at a low temperature. This was not the case on the day of the inspection. See requirement 7.

The garden area was unsafe for children. Officers observed broken wood with exposed nails, rusting and sharp metal poles. A selection of plastic play equipment was stored in an unsafe manner against a wall. Large pieces of heavy metal were leaning against a wall and could have been pulled over by a child. A wheelbarrow and a sandpit were full of dirty water. Step-ladders were resting against the conservatory wall. The officers noted that there were a number of serious risks to children posed by uneven surfaces, protruding cement and bricks and the general poor maintenance of the garden area. See requirement 8.

A number of health and safety issues were identified within the playrooms. Trailing flexes were observed within the baby room, and the toddler room, an exposed nail was found in the alcove cupboard of the toddler room and the water tray used by pre-school children was full of dirty stagnant water. See requirement 9.

National Care Standards

Enforcement

No enforcement action had been taken with regard to this service over the last 12 month period.

Other Information

Officers were concerned at the lack of compliance from the service provider and manager in relation to previous requirements and recommendations made during regulatory activity over the past 12 months by both the Care Commission and other regulatory bodies.

Officers also noted that there were no designated staff facilities. Staff had no rest room and took their breaks in the messy playroom for the pre-school children, this limited use of these rooms. The staff toilet was also being used by children. There were no facilities for staff to store their belongings securely. There was no dedicated office space where documents could be stored in a confidential manner and files for staff were held in an unlocked filing cabinet within a playroom.

The service provider and manager have been asked to meet with Care Commission staff to discuss how the service plans to meet the requirements in this report within the timescales provided and discuss the ongoing improvement to the service. The Care Commission may take enforcement action against the service if requirements are not met.

Requirements

1. Immediate action must be taken to ensure that children's food is appropriately stored. This is in order to comply with SSI 2002/114 Regulation 4.(1)(a). A requirement to make proper provision for the health and welfare of service users.

Timescale: On receipt of this report.

2. Immediate action must be taken to make the ergonomic fit for the purpose. Appropriate protective gloves and aprons must be provided immediately. Suitable waste bins with pedal operated lids must be provided. This is in order to comply with SSI 2002/114 Regulation 4.(1)(d). A requirement to ensure the well being of service users.

Timescale: On receipt of this report.

3. The use of communal hand washing facilities must stop immediately and adequate procedures for hand washing put in place. This is in order to comply with SSI 2002/114 Regulation 4.(1)(a). A requirement to ensure the well being of service users.

Timescale: On receipt of this report.

4. Procedures must be put in place to ensure the cleanliness of the nursery is maintained at all times. Action must be taken to address the cleaning issues identified in this report. This is in order to comply with SSI 2002/114 Regulation 4.(1)(d). A requirement to ensure the well being of service users.

Timescale: On receipt of this report.

5. The manager must obtain a qualification which meets the requirements for registration as a manager by the Scottish Social Services Council. This is in order to comply with SSI 2002/114 Regulation 7.(2)(e). A requirement to ensure fitness of managers.

Timescale: 2 years.

6. The service provider must ensure that the manager has sufficient dedicated management time to fulfil her management duties effectively. This is in order to comply with SSI 2002/114 Regulation 7.(2)(d) and The Scottish Social Services Codes of Practice. Employer - 2.2.

Timescale: On receipt of this report.

7. Immediate action must be taken to ensure that the radiators are appropriately covered. This includes thermostats and feeder pipes. This is in order to comply with SSI 2002/114 Regulation 10.(2)(c). A requirement to ensure the fitness of premises.
Timescale: On receipt of this report.

8. Immediate action must be taken to rectify issues of safety in the garden area. The garden must not be used by the children until this area is made safe in consultation with The Care Commission. This is in order to comply with SSI 2002/114 Regulation 10.(2)(b). A requirement to ensure fitness of premises.
Timescale: On receipt of this report.

9. A comprehensive health and safety check of the building must be undertaken. Trailing flexes must be secured to the wall and the protruding nail found in the toddler room must be removed immediately. This is in order to comply with SSI 2002/114 Regulation 10.(2)(b). A requirement to ensure fitness of premises.
Timescale: On receipt of this report.

Recommendations

Karen Robertson
Care Commission Officer