

Rowanberry Mini Kindy Child Minding

Edinburgh

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
16 February 2024

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2015987277

Service no:
CS2015340331

About the service

Sarah-Anne Askew provides Rowanberry Mini Kindy childminding service. The childminder operates her service from their four-bedroom detached home in a residential part of Edinburgh. Minded children have access to the ground floor, which consists of entrance hall, lounge, supervised access to the kitchen, toilet, and front and back garden. The Yurt in the rear garden is the main area used for childminding.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of 8 children up to 16 years of age. When the childminder or the assistant is working alone, they may care for a maximum; 8 children, of whom no more than 6 are under 12 years; of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and; of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months.

Where two people are working in the service they may care for a maximum of 10 children up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than 6 are not yet attending primary school and; of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months.

When three people are working in the service they may care for a maximum of 10 children up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than 10 are not yet attending primary school and; of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers include the children of the childminder's family/household.

The childminder has the following employed assistants:

Bram Boskamp, Marcela Lista, Thea Panter, Alison Turner, Lacy Sky Hayes, Alina Cumanova, and Ilana Betney. Minded children should be supervised at all times by the childminder or assistants while playing in the garden.

The service is close to local primary schools, shops, parks and other amenities.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Thursday 15 February 2024 between 9:30 and 15:30 and was carried out by two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with four children using the service and one parent
- spoke with the childminder and the assistants
- observed practice and children's experiences
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children benefited from the care, nurture and support given by the childminder and the assistants.
- Children's individuality is promoted, and they are valued and respected as individuals.
- The outdoor environment promoted children's wellbeing, physical skills and imagination.
- The childminder should follow good practice guidance and develop her recruitment and induction procedures.
- The childminder should continue to review the service paperwork; monitoring and evaluating systems to lead change. This would help the childminder to embed a meaningful cycle of continuous improvement.

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, play and learning?	4 - Good
How good is our setting?	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	3 - Adequate
How good is our staff team?	4 - Good

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care, play and learning?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support.

Children experienced a calm and nurturing approach from the childminder and assistants. They knew the children well and had developed positive bonds with them. As a result children were calm, felt loved and were confidently able to explore their environment.

Children were valued and respected as individuals, for example, they were listened to and appreciated. The childminder and the assistants responded well to the children's needs and interests. Interactions were lovely, caring and supported good communication with the children.

Children benefited from unhurried sociable mealtimes. The childminder and assistants sat with the children providing support and talking about the food whilst reflecting on past experiences, for example, when they made bread, pizzas and soup. As a result, children were relaxed and happy during the mealtime experience. Nutritional meals and snacks encouraged children to develop healthy eating habits. Children participated in the planning and preparation of meals and snacks. For example, they chopped up vegetables for soup and self-selected fruit. These tasks helped them develop new skills and confidence.

Personal plans were in place for all children and reviews had taken place. However, there was some information not completed or up to date. For example, strategies to support some children's individual care needs. This included long term medication which had not been reviewed (see recommendation 1).

Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning.

Children had fun as they experienced quality play and learning opportunities. They were creative and engaged in their play. They independently made choices as they followed their own interests and explored their environment. The pace of the day was relaxed. Children took time to complete their activities and were praised for their efforts. This enabled children to gain knowledge and understanding of the world around them and extend their interests.

There were good strategies to support literacy and language development. For example, through role modelling, calm voices, expressions, singing, and spending time reading books with children. There was skilled use of numeracy through children's play experiences, as the childminder and assistants encouraged children to recognize, numbers, shapes and patterns.

Children had access to a large natural outdoor environment. The area provided opportunities for risky play and for children to explore and be physically active. It supported children to develop their fine and gross motor skills, coordination, balance and to understand their physical limits, for example, climbing on the large tree house with slide. The garden supported children to explore.

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure all children's needs are met, personal plans should be further developed and outline the strategies for individual care and support. This should include reviewing children's long term medication with parents.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state 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).

How good is our setting?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities.

The childminder had considered the layout of the Yurt and the Bothy to create a warm, homely and nurturing environment for the children.

Children were secure and confident in their environment. The spaces and layout of the Yurt and Bothy areas enabled children to make independent choices and supported play. Spaces reflected current interests and gave children the space needed to extend their play. As a result, the children present were relaxed and having fun.

Risk assessment had been carried out for the Yurt, Bothy, garden, specific equipment and activities. However, there were areas in the garden which were a potential risk to children. For example, various stepladders lying in the garden, a store cupboard unlocked and uneven pathing. When these potential hazards were pointed out to the childminder, they took immediate action and removed these risks for the safety of children.

Overall, the Yurt and Bothy were clean and comfortable for the children; however, some areas needed attention. For example, the shelves within the Yurt and the entrance area to the Bothy would benefit from attention and a general tidy up (see area for improvement under Quality Indicator 3.1 How Good is our leadership).

The nappy changing routines and area where children should be changed were unclear to the assistants. The childminder confirmed children were taken into the home to be changed. The childminder should ensure there are clear procedures in place for nappy changing and that all assistants are made aware of these (see area for improvement under Quality Indicator 3.1 How Good is our leadership).

Good systems were in place for recording accidents and incidents and these records were seen and signed by parents. We reminded the childminder of notification reporting to Care Inspectorate and directed them to the following guidance: 'Records childminding services must keep and guidance on notification reporting'. This can be found on the Care Inspectorate's hub, <https://hub.careinspectorate.com>.

How good is our leadership?

3 - Adequate

We evaluated this key question as adequate, where strengths only just outweighed weaknesses.

Quality indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvements are led well.

Positive relationships had been built with families through regular discussions and sharing of information. Newsletters kept families up to date, for example, they informed families of new children and assistants joining the service and reminded them of upcoming community events. Families had opportunities to make comments and suggestions for improvement verbally, and through WhatsApp chats and questionnaires. One parent told us, "My child is happy with their childminder, there are no concerns, I like the Steiner approach."

The childminder and the assistants had opportunities to reflect together through one-to-one meetings and in service days. The childminder was open to our suggestion on how to improve their service and some immediate action was taken to make improvements to the environment and their paperwork during the inspection process. These supported positive outcomes and the safety of the children.

To assure children's welfare and safety, improvements are required to some procedures. For example, the childminder was unaware of their responsibility to notify the Care Inspectorate of any changes to those living at the premises used for providing the service. As a result enhanced disclosure Scotland certificates had not been routinely obtained when new individuals begin residing within the premises used for providing the service (see requirement 1).

The childminder did not consistently follow safer recruitment procedures when recruiting assistants. For example, they had obtained two-character references for an assistant as opposed to one from their previous employer. The service should make sure staff are recruited in a way which has been informed by all aspects of safer recruitment practices. We directed the service to the Care Inspectorate guidance, 'Safer Recruitment through Better Recruitment' (2023). This would contribute to children's safety and overall wellbeing (see recommendation 1).

The childminder had developed an improvement plan for her service. To build on this approach and improve the service, the childminder should further develop their quality assurance systems. These should include monitoring the service's overall safety and general cleanliness of the environment both indoors and outdoors (see recommendation 2).

Requirements

1.

By 24 March 2024, the provider must ensure the welfare and safety of children.

To do this, the provider must, at a minimum:

- notify the Care Inspectorate of any changes to who is living at the premises used for providing the service

- ensure any person residing within the premises used for the provision of the service is suitable to be in the proximity of children. In order to know whether or not a person is suitable, an enhanced disclosure Scotland certificate is required for all persons over the age of 16 living within the childminding premises, including students

- review and update their policies and procedure to reflect any necessary changes to practice.

This is in order to comply with Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011/210 - Regulation 12 (1) and Regulation 12 (3) Child minding

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I am protected from harm, neglect, abuse, bullying and exploitation by people who have a clear understanding of their responsibilities' (HSCS 3.20); and 'I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed' (HSCS 4.23).

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure the welfare and safety of children, the childminder should ensure that all aspects of safer recruitment practice are followed when appointing new assistants. Including taking up a reference from the applicants previous employer. They should also update the recruitment policy and procedure to reflect this.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I am confident that people who support and care for me have been appropriately and safely recruited' (HSCS 4.24).

2. For the safety of children and to ensure quality assurance and monitoring systems are robust, the childminder should further improve monitoring of children's personal plans, the procedures for nappy changing, the safety and general cleanliness of the environment. This would help the childminder to embed a meaningful cycle of continuous improvement.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes (HSCS 4.19).

How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children, and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality Indicator 4.3: Staff deployment.

Deployment and levels of staff were effective in meeting the needs of the children. The childminder and assistants worked on a rota, for example, different days and times, and some assistants only worked in the service to support holiday care. The childminder and the assistants patterns of working promoted continuity of care for the children and good communication for families. The assistants had time to pass on information about the child's care needs as they changed shifts. This supported positive outcomes for children.

The childminder was aware of the assistants different knowledge, skills and experiences and used this information to ensure children and families experiences were positive. The childminder and the assistants were willing to undertake training to support children, keep them safe and provide new experiences.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care, play and learning?	4 - Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	4 - Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good

How good is our setting?	4 - Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	4 - Good

How good is our leadership?	3 - Adequate
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	3 - Adequate

How good is our staff team?	4 - Good
4.3 Staff deployment	4 - Good

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