

Butterflies Childcare Child Minding

SOUTH QUEENSFERRY

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
18 July 2024

Service provided by:
Nicola Rennie

Service provider number:
SP2009973867

Service no:
CS2009206059

About the service

Butterflies Childcare is provided by Nicola Rennie 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.

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

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Wednesday 17 July 2024 between 12:00 and 14:00. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

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

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- Observed interactions between the children and the childminder
- Spoke with the childminder
- Observed practice, daily routines and the minded children's experiences
- Reviewed service documents and records
- Reviewed feedback from three families.

We gave feedback to the childminder by phone on Thursday 18 July 2024.

Key messages

- Children were happy, settled and relaxed in the care of the childminder.
- Children experienced warm and nurturing care which supported them to feel safe and secure.
- Positive relationships had been established with children and families.
- Children were supported to achieve and develop through play and learning experiences.
- Children benefited from regular outings within the local community to extend their experiences.
- The childminder should continue to develop self-evaluation of their service. This would support 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?	4 - Good
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 Nurture and Care.

Children were happy, relaxed, and confident in the care of the childminder. They experienced warm and nurturing care and had formed strong connections with the childminder. This supported them to feel safe and secure. Parents told us they were happy with the care their children received, and comments included, "Nicky provides such loving and excellent care for my child" and, "We have been very grateful and delighted with Nicky's warm and loving care for our child".

Children's overall wellbeing was supported through the information gathered within personal plans. These detailed children's likes, dislikes, needs and wishes. These were completed with parents and supported the childminder to provide individualised care. The childminder spoke confidently about individual children's needs and strategies they used to support them. For example, a flexible approach was taken for children settling into the service which supported their individual needs, and emotional wellbeing. The childminder communicated with parents using a variety of methods, such as using WhatsApp and through daily conversation at drop off and pick up times. Parents told us "Nicky is always open and approachable and keen to adapt her care to my child as an individual".

Children experienced a relaxed and sociable mealtime. They sat together at the kitchen table which helped to encourage good eating habits. Parents supplied children's meals and the childminder provided healthy option snacks, including a range of fruit. This contributed to a well-balanced diet. The childminder prepared snack for children, however, we discussed the benefits of children being more involved in preparing snack, would further promote their independence, self-esteem, and develop a sense of responsibility.

Quality indicator 1.3 Play and learning.

Children had fun playing and exploring toys and resources which supported their choices and wishes. These included cars, dinosaurs' trucks, and puzzles. The childminder followed their lead, helping them extend their play with positive interactions, and encouraging and praising their achievements. One parent told us, "Nicky always provides fun activities and learning experiences".

The childminder had begun to develop children's progress records since the previous inspection. These helped progress to be tracked and support children's choices and interests. Photographs captured children's experiences and showed a range of activities they engaged in and the fun they were having. We discussed ways for the childminder to continue to record children's progress. This would further develop and effectively support and challenge children's play and learning.

The childminder made good use of local community resources to support and extend children's experiences. This supported them to develop their physical skills and promoted general health, wellbeing, and confidence. These included trips to the local park, library, woods, and local toddler groups.

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.

Children benefitted from a welcoming, and homely environment. The childminder's home was warm and well maintained with plenty of natural light and ventilation. There was space for children to play, rest and explore. For example, in the lounge, furniture was arranged so children could enjoy floor activities, and there were large sofas for children to rest and relax on. In the kitchen children could use the table for mealtimes and art and craft activities. Parents shared, "Nicky provides a wonderful safe space for the children".

Children's health and wellbeing was promoted through good infection prevention and control measures, to ensure a safe and hygienic environment. Children were encouraged to follow good hand washing procedures. During personal care routines, the childminder used appropriate personal protective clothing to further prevent the spread of infection.

Children were able to direct their own play, choosing age appropriate and interesting resources from a range of open shelving and low-down storage boxes. The childminder had introduced some open ended materials and recognised that this was an area that could be further developed. This would provide further opportunities to extend children's learning and develop curiosity, enquiry, and problem-solving skills.

The childminder had a good understanding of the importance of children having opportunities to play outdoors and ensured that they had daily access to the enclosed back garden. This was accessed directly from the kitchen. Children could transport resources freely between the indoors and outdoors which provided opportunities to extend their learning and creativity.

How good is our leadership?**4 - Good**

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

3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well.

The childminder had a friendly and welcoming approach with children and families, which supported the development of trusting relationships. They spoke daily with parents, and photographs and messages were shared regularly through social media. This helped parents be involved in their child's experiences. Parents told us "Nicky always keeps us well informed and delivers good daily updates throughout the day".

The childminder gathered parents' views through daily conversations and informal chats. Parents told us "Excellent communication from Nicky, she is always open to feedback and suggestions". and "We are often asked if we are happy with the service or have any concerns". We encouraged the childminder to continue to develop ways to formally involve children and their families in improving the service and further strengthen self-evaluation. This will support the childminder to reflect on what is working well in the service and what could be improved.

Since the previous inspection, the childminder had developed an improvement plan, identifying gaps in children's experiences, for example outdoor experiences.

We discussed ways to continue to develop improvement. This would help influence and lead positive changes for children and embed ongoing self-evaluation to their practice.

How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

We made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, when taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality indicator 4.1 Staff skills, knowledge, and values.

Children benefitted from the childminder's warm and responsive approach, and we saw positive interactions which helped children to feel valued and included. Positive relationships had been built with families which supported strong relationships. Parents told us, "Nicky is easy to talk to, and is reliable" and "Nicky is kind and amenable and (child) is safe and happy."

The childminder had completed first aid training, child protection training and a course on awareness of Autism. The childminder should continue to update their skills and knowledge in relation to providing high quality play and learning experiences for children. We discussed how best practice guidance would also support development as they reflect on current practice and would also continue to support professional development.

The childminder linked with other local childminders, which helped promote professional discussion of new guidance, challenges, and practice sharing. This encouraged them to reflect on their service and supported them to identify areas for development. The childminder was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and regularly accessed their website and the Care Inspectorate Hub, to keep abreast of current guidance.

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 contribute to children's learning needs being met, the childminder should ensure individual learning is evaluated and progress captured.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standard (HSCS) which state that 'My care and support meets my needs and is right for me'. (HSCS 1.19)

This area for improvement was made on 31 May 2024.

Action taken since then

The childminder had developed children's progress records. These help track and support children's play and learning. Photographs captured children's experiences and showed a range of activities they were involved in.

Previous area for improvement 2

To provide meaningful continuous improvement, the childminder should create an improvement plan that highlights focussed areas for development. 'A Quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged childcare' will support the childminder assess and identifying improvements.

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)

This area for improvement was made on 31 May 2024.

Action taken since then

The childminder has developed an improvement plan identifying gaps in children's experiences. This should continue to develop and include views from children and their families. This would promote sustainable and continuous improvement of the service.

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	4 - Good
How good is our setting?	4 - Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	4 - Good
How good is our staff team?	4 - Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	4 - Good

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