

Naylor, Sonia Child Minding

Edinburgh

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
30 August 2024

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2008971560

Service no:
CS2008184573

About the service

Sonia Naylor is registered to provide care to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months.

The service is located in a residential area on the south side of Edinburgh, close to local amenities. The areas children are cared for include the lounge, kitchen/dining area and toilet. Children also have access to an enclosed shared garden to the rear of the property, when with the childminder.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 28 August 2024 between 11:30 and 13:15. 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 registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- Spoke with the two minded children present.
- Spoke with the childminder.
- Observed practice and children's experiences.
- Reviewed documents.
- Reviewed feedback from 1 family.

Key messages

- Children were happy, settled and relaxed in the care of the childminder.
- Positive relationships with the childminder meant children experienced caring and attentive approaches.
- Children experienced a safe, clean and well maintained environment which supported their overall wellbeing.
- Play, learning and development were supported by activities appropriate to their age and developmental stage.
- Regular outings within the local community extended children's experiences.
- Continuing to develop self-evaluation and improvement processes with children and families, would 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?	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: Nurturing care and support

Children were happy, relaxed and having fun in the setting. They benefitted from the childminder's warm and responsive approach and had developed positive relationships. This supported them to feel nurtured, loved, and secure. Strong relationships had been built with the childminder's own family and the minded children were included and welcomed as part of the family. Comments received from parents were very positive and included, "Feels like an extension of our family".

The childminder worked in partnership with parents and followed routines from home. This supported a continuity of care and familiarity for children. Communication with parents throughout the day helped them feel reassured and involved in their child's experiences. The childminder knew the children well and personal plans were in place to support children to experience consistent care and support. Plans contained relevant background information and details of the children's routines. However, not all plans reflected children's current likes, dislikes and preferences. We discussed, by including the wellbeing indicators this would give the childminder a more holistic overview, and more easily track children's progress.

No children required medication at the time of the inspection. The childminder had procedures in place which were in line with Care Inspectorate's best practice guidance 'Management of Medication in Day care and Childminding Services'. This meant that should children require medication, the childminder was well placed to administer medication safely.

The childminder recognised the importance of rest and sleep for children's overall wellbeing and followed family routines. This ensured children had opportunities for rest throughout the day. A travel cot was available to support safe and comfortable sleep and there were appropriate areas to rest and relax. We asked the childminder to record children's sleeping pattern, to ensure safe sleeping practice. This should be reflected in their safe sleeping policy.

Mealtimes were an unhurried and social experience. Parents provided lunches for their children and the childminder provided a range of healthy options for snack, which included fruit. Water bottles were readily accessible, so they were hydrated throughout the day. We saw lots of engagement and chatting between the childminder and children. This contributed to the development of early language and social skills. The childminder told us the table was also used for regular weekly baking sessions. One child told us they had made "chocolate muffins". This encouraged independence and promoted learning.

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children had fun playing and exploring toys and resources which supported their choices and wishes. They were easily accessible which meant children were able to explore independently and lead their own play. Children were enjoying building planes from Lego, and lots of discussion took place with the childminder as to where the planes were flying. This helped extend children's experiences. Photographs evidenced children's achievements and successes and were shared with parents.

Literacy and numeracy were promoted during play activities. Children were able to access a variety of books, and the use of songs and rhymes promoted early communication and language skills. They also had opportunities to meet with other children when they attended regular toddler groups. As a result, children's opportunities for play and learning were enhanced.

Children's play was informal and led by children's interests and the routines of the day. Considering further ways to record and plan for children's learning would enhance the quality of children's play and learning. This could help the childminder to review the experiences provided and reflect further on next steps and intentional learning opportunities.

Outdoor play and learning were promoted daily. This contributed to children having opportunities to be active and lead a healthy lifestyle. Visits to local parks, Bookbug sessions at the local library and nature walks enabled children to explore different experiences. Local playgroups provided further learning opportunities and supported children to make social connections and feel included within their community.

How good is our setting?

4 - Good

We evaluated this quality indicator 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 bright, clean, well-furnished and well-ventilated environment.

The lounge was arranged so that children could enjoy floor activities, and there were large sofas for children to rest and relax on. The large table in the kitchen provided opportunities for baking, art and crafts, and dough play.

The environment had been arranged to promote children's play, and storage boxes were accessible for children to lead their play. The childminder was aware of children's interests and further resources and materials were stored in a large cupboard within the lounge. Children accessed this with support. Children were provided with a range of age-appropriate toys and games that supported their play. These included construction toys, Lego, dinosaurs, dolls and aqua draw mats.

Infection prevention and control practices contributed to children's health and wellbeing. Effective handwashing supported children to develop good hygiene habits, and helped reduce the risks relating to eating and toileting. Personal care routines were discreetly carried out in the bathroom, for example nappy changing. Resources used to change nappies were available, which included disposable gloves and aprons.

The childminder demonstrated a good understanding of the potential risks to children, both within the home, and outside.

The shared outdoor garden at the rear of the property was fully enclosed, secure, and offered children a safe space to play and enjoy fresh air. There were a range of trees and shrubbery that encouraged wildlife for children to observe. The childminder told us that children often had bug hunts and enjoyed lifting the rocks and plant pots in the search for bugs.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

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

Quality Indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvements are led well

The childminder had a friendly and welcoming approach with children and families. This supported the development of trusting relationships. The use of text messaging and photo sharing helped parents to be involved in their child's day. The childminder spoke daily with parents, and shared children's experiences throughout the day.

The childminder did not use a formal approach to record improvements or self-evaluations of the service. During the inspection we discussed ways to develop an improvement plan, which would identify gaps in children's experiences. This would help influence and lead positive changes for children. To support the childminder in their improvement journey we directed them to 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare'. (Care Inspectorate, 2022).

Policies and procedures were in place which underpinned the service and were shared with parents. However, some had not been reviewed for a period of time. We asked for these to be reviewed in line with best practice guidance to ensure parents were provided with up to date information.

The childminder sought the views of parents through lots of informal chats. Parents told us that they were always welcomed into the childminder's home to discuss their child's care, play and learning. Parents confirmed that communication was good, and that the childminder sought their views and wishes. One parent told us "I am extremely happy with the service".

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 4.1: 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. As a result, children were happy, confident and their needs were being met. Parents told us "Sonia is always more than helpful and goes above and beyond".

The childminder held a relevant early year's qualification that supported their skills and knowledge. Core training undertaken had included child protection, first aid and food hygiene, to help support the safety and wellbeing of children. We discussed the benefits of continued access to training and use of good practice guidance. This would assist them to reflect on their learning and evidence any impact on children's experiences.

The childminder linked with other local childminders, which provided opportunity for professional discussion 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). We discussed with the childminder regular access to their website and the Care Inspectorate Hub, would help to keep them 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

In order to support her role in working with children, the childminder should update her child protection training. This will help the childminder to keep up to date with best practice and support her service.

This area for improvement was made on 10 September 2015.

Action taken since then

The childminder had carried out child protection training and was confident in the process of safeguarding children.

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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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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