

Lorraine Drew Childminding Child Minding

Perth

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
9 June 2022

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2020991265

Service no:
CS2020380287

About the service

Lorraine Drew provides a childminding service from her detached property in Tulloch, Perth. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of 6 children up to 16 years of age. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own children.

The service is well placed to access a range of amenities such as shops, schools, nurseries and park. The children are cared for in the downstairs area of the house and have access to an enclosed rear garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 9 June 2022 between 15:00 and 17:30. 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, 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 three of their parent/carers
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents

Key messages

- Children experienced warm, kind interactions which supported them to feel relaxed and safe.
- The childminder was responsive to meeting needs of all children
- Children had daily outdoor play opportunities which supported them to be active and explore their local community.
- Children experienced a home from home environment where they felt safe and comfortable.
- Children would benefit from more opportunities to explore, create and problem solve with loose parts and open ended materials.
- The childminder should develop self-evaluation processes to ensure continuous improvement of the service.

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?	5 - Very 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

Quality Indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support

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

Children had fun and felt safe and secure in the care of the childminder due to warm, kind and nurturing interactions. Children's views and interests were listened and responded to which demonstrated the respectful relationships between the children and childminder. Children were confident with the daily routines and were well supported to be independent. This supported children to experience smooth transitions in a relaxed and unhurried way.

The childminder was responsive to meeting the needs of individual children, she knew them well and had a very good understanding of their needs, interests, and routines. This was supported through the effective use of personal planning information, which captured development information for the children. Parents and carers were central to this process. As a result, children were getting the relevant support to achieve their potential.

It was evident that the childminder had formed trusting and respectful relationships with families using her service. This was supported through effective communication. Parents told us that; "Lorraine is excellent, she offers a range of experiences. We always hear about experiences (child) has taken part in".

Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning

We made an evaluation of good for this quality indicator, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on children's experiences.

Children were supported to learn and develop through play. On the day of the inspection the children spent all their time playing outdoors in a well-equipped garden. This area provided a large, open space for children to be active, healthy and explore.

To meet the learning and development needs of children, the childminder provided a wide range of toys for the children to access. Children led their own play and could choose to play indoors or outdoors. They had a choice of resources that were age and stage appropriate. These opportunities encouraged and supported the children to make choices, develop their imagination, problem solve and be creative. We talked about loose parts and how these could be extended to be included in indoor and outdoor play experiences rather than one dimensional plastic toys.

The childminder effectively supported the children to extend their play and learning through effective questioning and interactions. On the day of the inspection, we saw the childminder facilitating appropriate conversations which supported the development of skills in early language, literacy and numeracy. The childminder was aware of the individual development needs of each child and these were shared with parents. However, achievements and progression were not consistently recorded. She should use her knowledge to effectively record and plan for next steps in learning and development. This would enable children to be fully supported to reach their potential and would ensure there is structured information sharing with parents. The childminder could use 'Your Childminding Journey' to support her in developing this.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

Quality indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities

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

Children were cared for in a safe, clean, welcoming, and homely environment contributing to children feeling happy and secure. The environment allowed children to move around freely, with space to play on the floor, chose toys or relax on the sofa. A large dining area offered children space to have meals and snacks and engage in play activities suitable for sitting at a table. A secure back garden offered additional opportunities for active play and access to fresh air. This was well maintained with a variety of outdoor resources which the children could choose from. The garden was easily accessible from the kitchen and offered children opportunity for free flow play indoors and outdoors. This supported children to lead their own play and make choices.

Children had access to a range of age appropriate toys within the service including games, craft materials and a selection of books. All children were able to make choices around their play experiences. Toys were stored to enable children to access them independently. We observed the childminder supporting this well during the inspection. We discussed with the childminder the benefits of introducing loose parts and more natural resources for children to develop their creativity and imagination.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

Quality indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvement are led well

We made an evaluation of good for this quality indicator, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on children's experiences.

The childminder demonstrated a good understanding of her role as a registered childminder. She was organised and conscientious in her role to deliver good quality care for her minded children. The childminder offered a valuable service to families and had built positive relationships with them. One parent told us, "We can ask anything, nothing is too much trouble". This meant they felt respected, valued and listened to.

There was a good range of policies that were well presented and clear. The policies detailed how the childminder operated her service and had been shared with parents. This meant that parents had clear expectations of the service.

The childminder was committed to improving her service and wanted the best outcomes for children. We suggested that she could introduce a self-evaluation approach to support the ongoing journey of improvements required in meeting children's care and development needs. We reminded her to make use of national practice guidance to support self-evaluation. This could include 'Realising the Ambition', 'The Health and Social Care Standards' and 'A Quality Framework for Day Care, Childminding and School Aged Children'. Similarly, we signposted the childminder to the Care Inspectorate Hub and 'Your Childminding Journey'.

How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

Quality indicator 4.1: Staff skills, knowledge and values

We made an evaluation of good for this quality indicator, as several important strengths, taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement. Whilst some improvements were needed, the strengths identified had a significant positive impact on children's experiences.

We saw the childminder provided good care and support to the minded children present. During the visit the childminder was attentive and responsive to the needs of the children. There was lots of positive interaction, chatting, praise and encouragement when required. As a result, children were happy and confident with the childminder who was caring and warm towards them.

The childminder had made good use of professional development opportunities and had reflected on some of these to support and improve her practice. We saw how she had introduced personalised support strategies from recent training to help children regulate their emotions. This supported them to feel safe, secure, and valued. We would encourage her to consider how all professional development impacts on children's 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	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	4 - Good

How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very 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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