

Eccleson, Tracey Child Minding

Airdrie

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
23 November 2022

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2009972892

Service no:
CS2009193859

About the service

The childminder operates this service from the family home which is a detached property in the Airdrie area of North Lanarkshire. Minded children have access to the lower level of the home which consists of a lounge, playroom, kitchen, hall and toilet facilities. The secure back garden is accessible from the kitchen diner. The service is close to schools, nurseries and parks. Public transport and motorway links are nearby.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of six shall be under 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. The numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 21 November 2022 between 08:20 and 11:30. The service received feedback on the outcome of the inspection on 23 November 2022. 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 some of the children using the service and gathered the views from their families
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and children's experiences
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Parents were very happy with the service the children received and how the childminder kept them well informed of their child's progress.
- Children were happy, content and familiar within the childminder's home.
- Children were confident selecting from the toys available to them.
- Children were encouraged to have a voice, make decisions and share their views about their care.
- The childminder had a commitment to their professional development. They used new learning to further improve children's care and support.
- The childminder had a very good understanding of the children's wellbeing needs and created a nurturing and caring environment for children to play and learn.
- Children enjoyed participating in regular outdoor activities and getting involved in community activities.
- The childminder had good links with other childminders, which helped them reflect on the service provided and continue to improve the service offered.
- The childminder could further enhanced children's experiences by offering a more child led approach to care, play and learning.
- Children were encouraged to be independent and learn life skills.

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?	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

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

How good is our care, play and learning?

5 - Very Good

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

1.1 Nurturing care and support

The children were very comfortable, happy and had fun playing in the childminders home. They had formed positive relationships with each other and the childminder. They played well together, supporting and learning from each other. For example, one of the children read stories, whilst the other listened. The childminder was very good at responding to the needs of the children.

The childminder's interactions were kind, caring and respectful. When talking to the children, they asked what they wanted or if they needed help. The childminder was aware of, and understood, the children's gestures and actions. As a result, the children's voices were heard.

One parent shared that the biggest indicator that the childminder is doing things right, was that their child was full of smiles when we drop them off and pick them up, and their development had leapt forward, which we believe to be a direct result of the work the childminder puts in, and the nurturing environment they have created.

New children were welcomed into the service using settling in visits. Alongside these, the childminder ensured regular discussions with families, which helped children and families to feel settled. One parent shared how they had been invited into the childminder's home and found this very supportive.

Mealtimes were an important part of the day. The children sat together in the kitchen for meals, creating a sociable, relaxed experience. Children had a positive relationship with food and enjoyed getting involved in making their meals and learning about healthy eating. The childminder had shared health food ideas with parents to promote healthy eating at home.

The childminder was aware of each child's needs and interests and, in agreement with parents and children, they planned experiences to support these. All parents told us they were kept informed of their child's experiences at the end of the day.

1.3 Play and learning

Children's daily routines were well planned and there was a good balance between time to play in the house and garden and being out in the local community. The pace of the day was regularly monitored to ensure children's needs were met.

Children had access to a very good range of resources that were age and stage appropriate. The childminder responded to children's requests, for example if they wanted play, sing songs or have something to eat. One of the children told us about the different play they had experienced including how they used puppets to share their feelings, had learned about keeping safe and explored the world outdoors.

Daily experiences were planned in response to children's needs and interests. The childminder had a very good understanding of child development and planned appropriate play experiences. The childminder should continue with their plans to further enhance children's play and learning by using a more child led approach and using more natural resources.

Children's play and learning was supported by the childminder using questions to challenge their thinking and creativity. The childminder's interactions helped children to consolidate their learning through play. Children were encouraged to lead their own play, however this could be further enhanced by using careful observation and effective assessment of information.

The childminder had identified that they wanted to provide the right balance between child-initiated, adult initiated and adult-directed experiences.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

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

2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

The childminder's home was welcoming, clean and tidy. It was well ventilated, and the living room and kitchen diner had lots of natural light. Children played in the living room and secure rear garden. Parents told us they found the service to be well maintained, clean and safe.

The areas where the children played, reflected their interests and needs, toys were easily accessible and clearly labelled for children to self-select. Children were engaged in their play. We discussed the benefits of introducing more natural, open ended resources and the childminder told us they agreed.

The service had made very good use of resources to support children's emotional wellbeing, this included yoga, puppets and a worry wall. As a result, children using the service had become more confident expressing their views, feelings and choices.

One child told us about playing in the local community and they enjoyed going on outings and experimenting with lots of natural resources. The childminder risk assessed each outing to ensure appropriate safety measures were in place.

We found the premises and equipment to be well maintained and monitored. If any issues were identified, these were dealt with promptly. The childminder had appropriate safety measures in place to keep children safe, this included keeping hazardous material out of reach and safety of children when transporting them to and from the car.

The childminder had a dog, appropriate safety measures in place to keep the dog and children safe. For example, the dog had its own space, away from the children and the dog bowls were out of children's reach.

The service was registered with the information commission office, this permitted the service to use technology within the service. For example, taking photographs to share with parents. The service was aware of their responsibilities in relation to data collection and had procedures to store information securely.

We found the service to be following good practice infection control procedures. For example, good hand hygiene, nappy changing procedures and regular cleaning of resources and touch points.

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

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

3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The childminder had continued to reflect and self-evaluate the service provided. This had included informal discussions and feedback from those who had used the service, to more formal methods using self-evaluation documents.

The childminder has taken onboard feedback from parents which, to date, had been very positive. Any suggestions made, had been around supporting children's personal preferences which the childminder implemented.

Daily the childminder asked the children what they want to do and responded appropriately. They told us they had used questionnaires in the past to gather information from children about what they wanted to learn but recently were exploring other methods to support using a more child led approach to planning. For example, they had started to use a floor book, this method of consultation could be further developed. More information can be found on Talking and Thinking floor books online.

The childminder promoted children's rights, for example by creating an environment where they can make decisions and direct their own play, be safe, warm and have access to healthy foods. Children were comfortable and parents told us their children's development was coming on in leaps and bounds, as a result of attending the service. Children were encouraged to use their voices and these were being heard.

The childminder had kept informed of good practice guidance and changes in legislation. They had achieved this through professional reading, attending training courses and professional dialogue with other childminders. The childminder had gained confidence in self-evaluation and planning for improvement. As a result, the childminder ensured they provided the right care and support to meet children's need, wishes and choices. More information to support a more robust self-evaluation can be found on the Care Inspectorate hub.

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

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

4.1 Staff skills, knowledge, and values

The childminder was caring, kind and compassionate. They responded to the needs of the child with care and affection and when discussing the children and their families, they did so with care and respect.

The childminder knew the children, their needs and provided personalised care. Each child's personal plan reflected their wellbeing needs and how the childminder planned to support these. This demonstrated a very good understanding of children's development and importance of having positive nurturing interactions.

The childminder had kept their skills and knowledge up to date by undertaking qualifications, attending training and reading guidance. This included topics such as child development, wellbeing and various protection courses. The childminder discussed the positive impact of their training and development. For example, by learning new skills to improve their knowledge of child development and a better understanding of how best to support children's wellbeing needs.

The childminder demonstrated a strong commitment to their professional development and to providing a high-quality service. The children were at the heart of the service and were being supported to reach their potential.

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?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	5 - Very Good

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