

Hirst, Lindsay Child Minding

Perth

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
9 December 2022

Service provided by:
Lindsay Hirst

Service provider number:
SP2020991499

Service no:
CS2020382034

About the service

Lindsay Hirst provides a childminding service from her property in a quiet residential area of Bridge of Earn, on the outskirts of Perth. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of six children up to 16 years of age. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own children.

The service is close to the local primary school, shops, parks and other amenities. The children are cared for downstairs and use the kitchen and dining area, living room, a snug and bathroom. Children also have access to a large garden to the rear of the property.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 6 December 2022 between 09:45 and 10:15 and 9 December 2022 between 09:45 and 12:30. 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 registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection. In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with three children
- spoke with two families
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and children's experiences
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children experienced warm, kind, and caring interactions which helped them to feel happy and relaxed and support their emotional wellbeing.
- Children were well supported to achieve and develop through fun play and learning experiences. Next steps were developed in partnership with families which enabled them to celebrate their successes.
- Children experienced exciting opportunities in the local community which followed their interests.
- Effective self evaluation enabled the childminder to reflect and continuously improve the experiences and outcomes for children.

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.

Quality indicator 1.1 Nurturing care and support

Children were cared for in a kind, nurturing and compassionate way. They were effectively supported to regulate their emotions which helped them to feel safe and secure. Positive, trusting relationships had been built between the children and the childminder and as a result, children were happy, relaxed and having fun.

Children's choice was promoted, and they were encouraged to be independent during daily activities including preparing their own snack. They were skilfully supported by the childminder to cut grapes safely and worked together which enabled them to experience a sense of success and achievement. Children were able to eat at a pace which was right for them as the childminder created a relaxed atmosphere. As a result, children had a positive and social experience. Children's dietary needs were well considered. For example, alternative ingredients were used when baking to ensure all children could take part. This ensured their dietary needs were effectively met and helped them to feel included.

Children's individual needs and cues were understood and responded to by the childminder. Sleep arrangements supported the wellbeing of children and promoted safe sleeping habits. The childminder was very knowledgeable about each child which was supported by the effective use of personal planning. Families worked in partnership to ensure effective information sharing which enabled the childminder to provide consistency in care, support children's development and meet their needs, wishes and choices. As a result, children experienced high quality care where they were nurtured, loved, and respected.

Quality indicator 1.3 Play and learning

Children's right to play was supported by a balance of planned and spontaneous experiences. Children had fun engaging in imaginative play together which helped them to make sense of the wider world and supported them to develop skills in language and literacy. Children's interests were at the centre of their play which had a positive impact on their wellbeing and development. For example, children were interested in wrapping presents and were given the materials to do this independently. This supported their creativity, fine motor and problem solving skills. Families commented positively on the childminder's responsive approach to children's interests.

Children were meaningfully involved in leading their play and learning. Children experienced opportunities in their local community and were involved in planning outings. For example, children with an interest in vehicles often chose to take the bus to different places in the community. This helped them to develop their confidence, learn new skills and make connections with the wider world.

The childminder had a very good understanding of children's development and provided effective support to meet their needs and to help them flourish. For example, the childminder responded effectively to children's schematic play types and extended their learning by adding resources. As a result, children experienced high quality play and learning.

Families were involved in identifying children's next steps which ensured everyone felt included. Effective use of observation supported the childminder to plan and extend play experiences to support children's development. As a result, children were effectively supported to grow and develop, and their achievements celebrated. Children's development was recorded and shared with families. We suggested that dating the achievements would support the childminder to track their progress over time.

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.

Quality indicator 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

Children experienced care in a well furnished, comfortable, and homely environment. They had plenty of space and made independent choices about how and where they played. They used the different areas of the home with confidence, for example one child retreated to the snug to play individually. Children were kept safe and protected as the service was well maintained and clean.

Children's stages of development, interests and curiosities were well considered and reflected in the selection of resources on offer. The toys and resources were rotated regularly based on children's interests which helped children to be stimulated, engaged, and challenged in their play. They were easily accessible which promoted choice. The resources available supported children to develop skills, for example, having opportunities to explore, be curious and imaginative when playing with coloured rice. We discussed how children would benefit from having more opportunities to play with open ended and natural materials to encourage a sense wonder.

Children made use of the large garden which offered opportunities for active and energetic play. They were kept safe as the driveway gate was closed when they used the garden. They also benefitted from frequent visits to nearby woodland where they had opportunities to explore and investigate. Children experienced regular fresh air and exercise which supported them to be healthy.

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.

Quality indicator 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The vision, values and aims of the service were shared with families which helped them to have clear expectations of the service and how their child's needs would be met. The vision, values and aims reflected the service provided.

Families were involved in influencing change and had opportunities to share feedback, for example through questionnaires and daily discussions. The use of open ended questions encouraged families to give detailed feedback to support improvement. These opportunities meant families had their views heard and helped them to feel included in the development of the service. Families told us that they were able to share continuous feedback with the childminder and they were confident to do so. As a result, families felt listened to and included.

Effective use of self-evaluation had supported the childminder to identify strengths and areas for improvement. The childminder was developing a plan to address the areas for improvement identified. For example, the childminder was exploring different ways to gather families' views to improve engagement. The childminder was very reflective, and this supported continuous improvement.

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.

Quality indicator 4.1 Staff skills, knowledge, and values

Children were listened and responded to with care, nurture, and compassion. As a result, children had developed strong relationships and attachments with the childminder and were supported to thrive and flourish. Both families we spoke to were very happy with the care their children received, one parent told us, "Lindsay is a wonderfully warm and caring person".

The childminder had a very good understanding of how children develop and learn. Skilful interactions supported children to grow, develop and achieve. The childminder was knowledgeable about current best practice guidance and reflected on this to improve her practice which supported children to receive high quality interactions and experiences. For example, children's emotional resilience and wellbeing needs were met well through developing secure attachments, promoting choice and enabling independence.

The childminder kept a record of professional development completed which demonstrated her commitment and motivation to learning. We suggested that she records what has been implemented and how effectively this worked to identify next steps. This would support the childminder to continually improve the outcomes for 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?	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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