

Tracy Booth Child Minding

Airdrie

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
3 November 2023

Service provided by:
Tracy Booth

Service provider number:
SP2023000014

Service no:
CS2023000020

About the service

Tracy Booth's childminding service is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children under the age of 16 at any one time, 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 own family.

The service is registered to provide care from the childminder's home in Airdrie, North Lanarkshire. The accommodation is a three bedroomed semi detached villa. The areas within the family home used for childminding are the living room, kitchen and garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 03 November 2023. 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 registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since registration.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with the children present and observed the care and support being provided
- gathered the views from three families of children using the service.
- spoke with the childminder
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were happy and settled within in the childminders home.
- The childminder's interactions with the children were affectionate and compassionate.
- Information gathered about children's needs supported the childminder to plan their care, play and learning experiences.
- Children were able to self select from a range of resources and made decisions on what they wanted to play and learn.
- The childminder's home was clean, tidy and maintained.
- The childminder kept themselves well formed by attending training and development opportunities and professional reading.
- Outdoor play was provided given children time to play and have in fun in the natural world.

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 settled and comfortable within the childminder's home. The children were at ease moving around the childminder's home and they showed the inspector around, telling them about the toys they liked to play with. The parents told us they were very happy with the service, the children were well cared for and had settled well. One parent's comments about the childminder included 'She is kind and patient with the kids and they absolutely love her.' and another said their child had formed a great bond with Tracy and loved attending.

The childminder's interactions were caring, kind and affectionate. We saw children being comforted when going to sleep and being nurtured, when they woke. They were respectful and gave children time to respond. Children were encouraged to use their voices and make decisions about their day. For example, choosing what they wanted to play. Children were encouraged to be aware of others' feelings and were learning to play alongside each other, learning about turn taking.

The childminder worked closely with families to ensure they provided that home from home environment. Where possible, they supported children's home routines, such as mealtimes and sleep times. Parents told us they were involved in the children's care. Along with parents, the childminder regularly identified and planned how to support children's needs.

The childminder had considered the number of children being cared for, their needs and their attendance patterns to ensure they provided the best care and support. Before welcoming new children, they made sure the children using the service needs were being met.

Parents were welcomed into the childminder's home. Parents were encouraged to sit and chat to discuss their child's experiences, needs and progress. The childminder recognised the importance of having these positive relationships when caring for someone's child.

Quality Indicator 1.3 Play and learning

Children's daily experiences were well planned in response to their needs, wishes and choices. When at home, the children had access to a range of resources, for example a toy kitchen, a popular choice, and soft toys. Children were familiar with the resources and were able to select what they wanted. Children liked to play in the garden. Parents shared that they were very happy with the quality of play experiences, with one parent telling us their child had come on leaps and bounds since starting.

The childminder recognised that they would benefit from further support and development around planning play and learning experiences. We discussed some good practice guidance they could use, such as Realising the ambition: being me and the benefits of a more formal qualification in childcare. They agreed this might be something to consider.

The childminder supported children's natural progression, in areas such as physical development and communications. To further support this, the childminder should consider learning more about the ages and stages of child development. This would help them to ensure they provide the right care and support.

Children had access to resources that supported their early literacy and numeracy development. We discussed for example, the benefits of providing experiences for children to use numbers during play, rather than, for example using flashcards. The childminder agreed.

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.

2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

The childminder's home was secure, welcoming, clean and tidy. It was well ventilated, and the living room had lots of natural light. Children played in the living room, had meals in the kitchen and had access to a secure rear garden and garden playroom. The childminder agreed to provide the Care Inspectorate with confirmation that the new garden playroom was safe to be used for childminding. They should do this by submitting a notification form.

The childminders home, garden and equipment were well maintained and, if any issues were identified, these were dealt with promptly. Most safety measures were in place to keep children safe, this included a secure garden where children could freely explore and non slip paint on the deck area. We did identify the need for additional safety measures to be implemented to ensure hazardous chemicals were kept out of children's reach. The childminder agreed to relocate cleaning products to an area the children did not access.

The childminder used their car to transport children, they followed appropriate safety measures including use of suitable car seats and a well maintained car.

The service was registered with the Information Commission Office. This permitted the service to use technology whilst childminding. For example, to take photographs to share with parents. The service was aware of their responsibilities in relation to data collection, we discussed with the childminder to consider writing a procedures document to detail information on the personal data they hold and why.

We found the service to be following good practice infection control procedures. For example, regular cleaning of the minding areas, resources and hand hygiene. We discussed nappy changing procedures and reminded the childminder to wear a single-use disposable plastic apron as well as disposable gloves when changing nappies.

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.

Quality Indicators 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

Since registration, the childminder had formed positive relationships with other childminders. This had supported them to evaluate how well they were doing and identify future development areas. This included possible future training to develop their knowledge in child development.

The childminder had attended training events in areas such as first aid and child protection. They discussed how they had used this new learning to ensure they were implementing best practice, for example to reduce the likely hood of a child choking by cutting up foods such as grapes.

The childminder had reflected on how they communicated with parents and considered where improvements could be made. After consulting with parents, they had introduced the use of technology to share information with parents. This led them to register with the information commission office. The childminder demonstrated that they reflected on the quality of service they provided, had kept informed and used good practice guidance.

Parents views were being gathered to ensure the care and support being provided met their expectations. Parents were welcomed into the family home, this allowed parents time to see their child's interactions with the other minded children and the childminder. Daily discussions at drop off and collection times, to share information, made sure children were receiving the right care and support.

Children attending the service were consulted daily, being asked what they wanted to do or through the childminder observing their play and responding. The childminder had a good understanding of the children's needs and personal preferences. Children told us 'They like having lots of fun there, a garden to play in, there is lots of different toys to play with, they love Tracey being their childminder', 'It's fun, I like making things and playing games' and 'I wouldn't make anything better'.

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

The childminder showed care and compassion towards the children. They provided reassurance and comfort when needed, for example when a child woke from sleep children were comforted until they were ready to play. The childminder spoke with respect and kindness about how they enjoyed working with the children and families.

The childminder had kept their skills and knowledge up to date through attending training and reading guidance. We spoke about Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) and other good practice documents and how theses could be used to support the childminder when writing children's personal plans. The childminder told us they had found them extremely useful when reflecting on the service they provided. The childminder agreed it would be beneficial to keep a record of the training they had undertaken, as it would help them to reflect on what they had learned and how it could be used to further enhance children's experiences.

We discussed the Care Inspectorate HUB and the bitesize videos to help them further improve the service provided. Following this inspection, the childminder could watch some of the videos to support future improvements, for example the videos on personal plans and self-evaluations.

Having good links with other childminders was a supportive and valuable resource. The childminder discussed how they regularly shared new ideas and thinking with colleagues.

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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