

Simms, Theresa & Nigel Child Minding

Falkirk

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
16 January 2026

Service provided by:
Simms, Theresa & Nigel Simms,
Theresa & Nigel

Service provider number:
SP2003905722

Service no:
CS2003011424

About the service

Theresa and Nigel Simms provide a childminding service from their semi-detached property in the village of Redding, Falkirk. 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 family.

The service is close to local amenities, school and park. The premises are all on one level and children have access to the lounge, playroom, kitchen and bathroom facilities. There is a large, enclosed garden suitable for outdoor play.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 13 January 2026 between 12:00 and 13:45. The inspection was carried out by two inspectors 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:

- observed three children using the service and received feedback from four families.
- spoke with the childminder and assistant
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents

As part of our inspections, we assess core assurances. Core assurances are checks we make to ensure children are safe, the physical environment is well maintained and that a service is operating legally. At the time of this inspection, no improvements were identified relating to core assurances.

Key messages

- Children were happy and content, they experienced interactions which were responsive and caring, contributing positively to their overall wellbeing.
- Children and families benefitted from clear aims of the service which helped create a shared vision.
- The childminder made good use of the local community to extend children's learning opportunities
- The childminder should continue to review the new framework to support their self-evaluation processes.
- The childminder should develop a consistent approach to reviewing, recording and updating personal plans, including health care plans.

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

Leadership	4 - Good
Children play and learn	4 - Good
Children are supported to achieve	4 - Good

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

Leadership 4 – Good

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where there were important strengths within the setting's work and some aspects which could benefit from improvement.

Leadership and management of staff and resources

Children and families benefitted from clear aims of the service which helped create a shared vision. Aims and objectives were in place which reflected the childminders ethos and approach to care. We suggested to the childminder ways in which the aims and objective could be further developed to include vision and values of the service and involving children and families meaningfully in shaping these. We signposted the childminder to 'A quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding' document to support the development of this.

Families were kept updated and informed through daily conversations and messaging, including photos. The childminder valued children's and families' views and sought their feedback through ongoing informal discussions.

The childminder showed consideration towards improvement through reflection. Self-evaluation was in the early stages, which helped them to identify what they were doing well, and aspects requiring further development. The reflective process contributed to the development of an action plan that noted some areas for improvement. We suggested to the childminder to continue to review the new framework; 'A quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding' to support the progress and development of their service.

Children play and learn 4 - Good

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where there were important strengths within the setting's work and some aspects which could benefit from improvement.

Playing, learning and developing

Children appeared happy and content, they experienced interactions which were both responsive and caring, contributing positively to their overall wellbeing. These interactions demonstrated an understanding of each child and supported their emotional development and engagement. Achievements were celebrated through praise and encouragement, fostering children's confidence and self-esteem.

Children had the opportunity to choose from some toys and resources, allowing them to lead their own play and explore their interests. The resources were age-appropriate, accessible, and supported their play. The childminder engaged playfully, listened attentively, and responded to children's nonverbal cues.

There were good opportunities observed for early numeracy, literacy, and language development within the service. Books were readily available, and children approached the childminder to read a story, supporting early literacy experiences. Jigsaws were accessible, which promoted problem-solving and fine motor skill development. The childminder's interactions were observed to support language development. Strategies such as repeating single words, offering commentary, modelling language and singing were used appropriately to support children.

Children were developing a range of skills through everyday experiences. The childminder made good use of the local community to extend learning opportunities, helping children to become familiar with their wider world and supporting their social development. One parent commented, 'The children never just sit at home all day at Theresa & Nigel's, they go to such wonderful special places where they can really develop skills and knowledge. Theresa & Nigel have great memberships at local safari parks, farm parks, play groups and music classes'.

Planning approaches were informal and based on children's interests and curiosities. The childminder used photographs to share children's experiences with families, promoting positive parental engagement. One parent commented, 'Theresa & Nigel make such an effort to chat with us regularly and update us every day with what they got up to today and any new skills my child has learned, showing us photos and keeping us updated with new progress or any new likes or dislikes they has'. While planning was responsive and child-centred, there were limited systems in place to evaluate children's progress and plan meaningful next steps. To further enhance this approach, we discussed the value of strengthening observation and recording practices to support the childminder to effectively identify and respond to children's learning needs (**see area for improvement one**).

Areas for improvement

1. To improve outcomes for children, the childminder should develop appropriate systems to record and review children's learning and development. The childminder should use this knowledge to support children's next steps and extend their experiences.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standard (HSCS) which states that: 'My care and support meets my needs and is right for me' (HSCS 1.19).

Children are supported to achieve 4 - Good

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where there were important strengths within the setting's work and some aspects which could benefit from improvement.

Nurturing care and support

The childminder was kind and caring, offering reassurance, nurturing gestures, and physical comfort during play. Parents spoke positively about the childminder's commitment to the children, comments included, 'Theresa is the absolute best, honestly, one of a kind', 'The childminder takes wonderful care of [child], lovingly teaches and guides them, and always keeps us informed about new ideas, activities, and their progress', 'Theresa goes above and beyond and cares so deeply about the children she looks after' and 'Theresa & Nigel are amazing, I cannot explain how grateful we are as parents that our child is cared for by Theresa & Nigel'.

The childminder knew children very well, for example, their preferences and routines which helped them form meaningful connections and develop trust. Some important information was recorded in personal plans, however these had not been reviewed and updated. Children would benefit from the childminder reviewing personal plans with families to ensure they have accurate, up to date information to meet children's changing needs (**see area for improvement one**). Healthcare plans and medical permission forms did not contain sufficient information. We sign posted the childminder to the Care Inspectorates guidance on 'Management of medication in day care of children and childminding services (Care Inspectorate, 2024). The childminder was responsive to suggestions made and had begun to address this (**see area for improvement one**).

Children experienced a sociable and enjoyable lunchtime. The childminder was responsive to individual needs, offering food at a relaxed pace and encouraging independence. Children were safely supported during meals, sitting together at the dining table with appropriate supervision.

The childminder had built strong, trusting relationships with families, creating a welcoming environment where parents felt included and valued. This supported effective communication and partnership working, which parents identified as a key strength of the service. Regular communication took place through informal daily updates and sharing of photographs and messages, which helped families feel involved in their child's experiences. This contributed to families feeling valued and reassured that their child was safe, happy, and well cared for. Parents comments included, 'we have a very good relationship with our childminder. There is mutual trust, open communication, and a shared understanding of our child's needs. She listens to our concerns, keeps us well informed, and works closely with us to support his development and wellbeing. We feel comfortable approaching her with questions or feedback, and we truly value the partnership we have in caring for our child.'

Areas for improvement

1. To promote children's health, safety and wellbeing, the service should have a consistent approach to reviewing, recording and updating personal plans, including children's healthcare needs in line with guidance.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15).

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which states that: 'Any treatment or intervention that I experience is safe and effective' (HSCS 1.24).

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

Leadership	4 - Good
Leadership and management of staff and resources	4 - Good
Children play and learn	4 - Good
Playing, learning and developing	4 - Good
Children are supported to achieve	4 - Good
Nurturing care and support	4 - Good

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