

# PiPsqueaks Child Minding

Tranent

**Type of inspection:**  
Announced (short notice)

**Completed on:**  
5 February 2026

**Service provided by:**  
Phillipa Headley

**Service provider number:**  
SP2012983549

**Service no:**  
CS2012308306

## About the service

Phillipa Headley operates a childminding service, PiPsqueaks, which is registered with the Care Inspectorate to care for a maximum of 6 children up to 16 years of age these numbers include the children of the childminders family: Of those 6 no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school. Of those 3 no more than 1 is under 12 months. Tom Headley may work as an assistant in the service.

The service is provided from the family home in the village of Pencaitland in East Lothian.

Children have access to the lounge and dining area, small downstairs cloakroom and have access to the gardens at the rear and front of the home.

## About the inspection

This was a short notice inspection which took place on 05 February 2026 between 12:00 and 14:00. 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.

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.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- observed and interacted with children during their play
- reviewed comments made by three parents using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and the experiences for children
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- Children were happy and confident in the childminders care.
- Policies and procedures for the service needed to be updated and expanded to reflect current good practice.
- Proportionate systems to evaluate the quality of the service could be further developed.
- Children enjoyed the range of outdoor play and going to community groups.
- The childminder knew children in their care well and provided good support for individual needs.

## 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	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
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 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

We evaluated this quality indicator as satisfactory/adequate where aspects of work just outweigh the weaknesses.

### Quality indicator - Leadership and management of staff and resources

The childminder could discuss with us the vision that she had for children in their care. This included a connection with nature and the outdoors. The childminder needed to further develop the vision, values and aims for the service. This would enable them to share the aspirations that they had for children and families in their care.

Policies and procedures which were used in the setting were regularly reviewed. However, some policies such as the child protection policy needed further review to ensure that it met with current good practice and reflected legislative responsibilities. The childminder was aware of some of the current good practice documents which were available to help support their practice but this understanding could be further developed. We made an area for improvement at the last inspection. This has been re-stated in this report. (See section 'What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection.')

The childminder had begun to familiarise themselves with 'A quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding.' (Care Inspectorate 2025). This document could be used by the childminder to further evaluate their service and identify further improvements which could be made.

Parents confirmed that they were consulted with regarding aspects of the service. In the past a questionnaire had been issued to gauge satisfaction. We discussed the use of this with the childminder and suggested alternative methods of gaining meaningful opinions and views of parents and children that could impact on the self-evaluation of the service.

The certificate of registration indicated that the childminder had an assistant in the service. This was no longer the case. We asked that a variation to remove the assistant from the certificate was submitted. This would ensure that parents have the correct information about those working in the service.

## Children play and learn 4 - Good

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

### Quality indicator - Playing, learning and developing

The childminder had a good understanding of how children learn and develop. They provided a good range of age appropriate resources to support children's fun and engagement in their learning. On the day of our visit children were accessing small world resources and playing together. There were books, puzzles and craft activities which children could access independently.

The opportunities for outdoor and community experiences further supported physical play, social development and a connection with nature. Parents strongly agreed that these were the most positive aspects of the service. "Adventures around the village and beyond on the bus, parks and woods, muddy play." "Every day they get outside, walking or going to the park." "Warmth, outdoor play, new playgroups, creativity, fun."

The childminder supported children's play, learning and development through being responsive to children's interests and stages of development. For example, one child was currently very interested in dinosaurs and this learning was well supported. They recognised children's verbal and nonverbal cues, offering praise and encouragement at an appropriate pace to build confidence and engagement. Interactions such as discussing children's play and wondering aloud stimulated children's curiosity and communication.

Parents were regularly informed about their child's development and information was shared in an activity diary. Strengthening the approach to observations and assessment could further improve planning and ensure that assessments about children's development and learning were clear and supported children's progression. The childminder acknowledged this during the inspection and was receptive to suggestions for improvement.

## Children are supported to achieve 4 - Good

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

### Quality indicator - Nurturing care and support

The childminder demonstrated a warm natural and positive relationships with children in their care. Children were comfortable and secure with the childminder and sought comfort and reassurance. The childminder knew children's needs and preferences very well and supported children to be capable individuals. Parents commented "The routine works really well for us and our child and we trust Phillipa's care." Phillipa is always so welcoming and it's lovely to see our child so settled with her. We get told what our child will be doing that day and we love that (they) get to go to local playgroups and socialise with other children."

Personal plans were in place for all children and had been developed with families. Registration information included key details such as health needs and routines. Discussion with the childminder evidence that they had a very firm knowledge of each child and their needs. Parents confirmed that regular verbal communication helped the childminder stay responsive to changing needs. Personal plans had been reviewed with families every six months. While updates were shared these were not consistently recorded in the personal plans which would help to provide an overview of emerging issues or successes.

The childminder used community groups and outings regularly. They ensured that children knew what the routine was for the day and planned transitions throughout the day carefully. This helped to ensure that children felt safe and relaxed as they knew what was happening next.

Parents provided meals and snacks for children. Meals were eaten together in the dining area. This promoted a relaxed and social experience for children. The childminder was aware of food allergies and the need to promote healthy eating for children.

Children's health and wellbeing was supported through good procedures for the administration of medication, assessment of risks and infection prevention and control practices.

The childminder knew the families using their service well. The childminder provided daily feedback to parents about their child's day and communicated regularly with them through text or WhatsApp. This helped ensure that parents were included in the life of the setting. Parents commented "Phillipa is communicative and friendly which makes it easy to have a good relationship" "We have lots of time to chat about things."

## What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

### Areas for improvement

#### Previous area for improvement 1

To continue to meet the individual care needs and interests of each minded child the childminder should ensure their personal plans are reviewed when there is a significant change in a service user's health, welfare or safety needs, or at least once every six months.

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 area for improvement was made on 18 February 2025.**

#### Action taken since then

The childminder had a process in place to review children's personal plans once every six months or before if there were significant changes. Parents confirmed that they were kept up to date with their child's progress. We discussed with the childminder that some further evidence could be kept of these conversations. This would ensure that developing patterns could be easily identified.

**This area for improvement was met.**

#### Previous area for improvement 2

To support a culture of continuous improvement and positive outcomes for children, the childminder should increase their knowledge and use of current best practice in Early learning and childcare. This should include using the Care Inspectorates' website and 'Hub' to support personal planning, updating their policies and procedures, as well as the use of best practice documents including but not limited to:-

'Guide for providers on personal planning'

'Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services'

'Safe sleep for babies'

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice' (HSCS 4.11).

**This area for improvement was made on 18 February 2025.**

#### **Action taken since then**

The childminder shared their policies and procedures with us. Some needed to be further adapted to ensure that they met good practice. We have made this area for improvement again in this report.

**This area for improvement was not met.**

## Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Detailed evaluations

Leadership	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Leadership and management of staff and resources	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
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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