

Anthea's Childminding Service

Child Minding

Newport on Tay

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
16 April 2024

Service provided by:
Anthea Davie

Service provider number:
SP2015986969

Service no:
CS2015337644

About the service

Anthea Davie 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 three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months.

When working with an assistant, a maximum of 12 children may be cared for under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than six are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than two may be aged under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family.

Minded children can only be cared for by the childminder, Phoebe Martin, and Linda Paton as assistants. The service is registered to provide funded places in partnership with the local authority.

The childminder's home is situated in Wormit in Fife and is close to local amenities and public transport. The children have access to the playroom, sitting room, dining room, bathroom, and a fully enclosed garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 16 April 2024 between 13:00 and 18:30. We provided feedback on the same day. One inspector carried out the inspection.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included registration and any complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke with children using the service
- spoke with three families using the service
- reviewed feedback from 17 families using MS forms
- spoke with the childminder and assistant
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

Children were cared for by a highly skilled childminder and assistant who responded to their individual cues and body language, this encouraged all children to feel valued, respected, and included.

The childminder and assistant continually improved their knowledge and skills through professional discussions, reading and use of current best practice guidance. This resulted in positive outcomes for children.

Children were engaged in their play and were exploring the resources and activities with confidence.

Interactions were meaningful, and both the childminder and assistant used effective questioning to extend children's thinking and widen their skills.

Mealtimes were relaxed social experiences for children and promoted independence.

Children benefitted from daily outdoor play opportunities, this promoted a sense of wellbeing and connections with the local community.

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 experienced warm, caring, and loving interactions, and, as a result they had formed strong attachments with the childminder and their assistant. Positive relationships had been developed with children and their families. The childminder and assistant had a very good understanding of children's individual routines and needs. This approach ensured their health and wellbeing needs were met consistently. Families described the team as very approachable, flexible, and extremely caring. Some of the families' comments included,

'We have been with Anthea for over 6 years. Feel comfortable in the knowledge that she has my children's best interest at heart.'

'I love how kind they are. They take me on lots of activities and adventures. I am outside lots. It is lots of fun.'

'My children feel very cared for and valued. The nurturing environment is fundamental to me as a mum, and this is consistently evident in the setting.'

Personal plans were in place for all children and these plans were created in partnership with families. The plans contained key information which helped the childminder and assistant to support children's overall development and meet their individual needs. Plans were regularly reviewed with families to ensure information was current to fully meet the needs of children. This approach ensured families were included in the care of their child. One parent told us 'we are regularly asked to be involved in their personal learning plans. I am encouraged to give feedback.'

The team communicated with families using a variety of methods, to suit everyone, such as using WhatsApp to share photos and achievements and through daily conversation at drop off and pick up times.

Children enjoyed a relaxed, sociable mealtime experience at the large dining table. Children sat together with the assistant and chatted. This promoted close attachments and supported early language and communication skills. The childminder provided all snacks and meals. Children were offered a variety of healthy options. This ensured that dietary needs and parental preferences were supported.

No children were receiving medication at the time of inspection; however, the childminder and assistant spoke confidently about how to store and administer medication. A medication policy and related paperwork was in place and in line with best practice guidance.

Children were protected from harm as the team understood their responsibility in relation to safeguarding. They spoke confidently about how they would recognise and respond to any concerns and had effective systems in place to record this.

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Experiences were well considered for children's ages and stages of development.

Children were independently accessing a variety of resources, which empowered them to lead their own play and learning.

Children benefitted daily from fresh air and exercise. The team recognised and valued the importance of outdoor play opportunities. Children were able to explore their local community and enhance connections. For example, attending toddler groups, visiting local parks, woodlands, and the beach. Most families commented positively on these opportunities. One parent commented on the range of activities their child is taken to. Being outside as much as possible. Being cared for as if he were family.

Children's play and learning were supported by an experienced childminder and assistant who showed a very good understanding of child development. Children's language, literacy and numeracy development was well considered and supported. Through a variety of resources and experiences this was naturally embedded across the service. The team offered children support and challenge. By using open ended questioning, they encouraged children to problem solve and extended their language skills at a pace that was right for them.

Planning approaches were responsive, and child led. This encouraged children to feel valued, respected and listened to. Children's play, learning and achievements were recorded within their individual files and a floor book. The team used photographs and written observations to track children's progress. This information was regularly shared with families and one parent told us 'they are very approachable, brilliant at sharing information and keeping parents well informed.' Another parent told us 'I am part of Anthea's group chat with other parents, which is very instructive and helps feel part of a community.'

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 benefitted from an environment that was very clean, well presented, and welcoming. Children moved around the playroom freely and could access a variety of resources, this promoted choice and independence. Careful consideration had been given to the layout of the playroom to ensure children could be independent and had ample space to engage in their play. All families we spoke to agreed that children had access to a range of experiences and one parent commented positively 'on the fantastic range of activities both indoors and outside. Great variety.'

Children were relaxed, confident and having fun with resources that allowed them to explore, experiment and share.

Children were cared for in a very safe environment. Detailed risk benefit assessments were in place and supported the effective monitoring of the service. The team understood potential risks and looked for opportunities to mitigate these risks without restricting children's experiences. Risk benefit assessments were regularly reviewed, and this ensured they were in line with current best practice guidance. Children regularly took part in fire safety drills and road safety was regularly discussed with children when outdoors.

We found that very good infection control measures were in place, which helped to reduce the potential spread of infection, children washed their hands effectively and all spaces were very clean.

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 childminder and assistant had developed a clear vision, values and aims for their service. This was shared with families and children, helping them to understand what to expect from the service. We found that the vision, values and aims clearly reflected their commitment to support children and families. This created a positive ethos of trust and respect which was evident in practice. Families told us the team knew their children extremely well and that Anthea and Phoebe take time to get to know each child individually.

A range of policies and procedures were in place, this supported the team to provide a quality service. Families told us they were always kept up to date by the childminder through text messages, which contributed to them feeling included and well informed. One parent told us 'Anthea is very flexible and attempts to help if she can. She is very approachable and lovely to deal with.'

Children were listened to and involved in the day to day running of the service. This included being consulted on activities, snack menu planning and trips or outings. The childminder took this feedback into account when reviewing the service. This approach empowered children and showed them that their opinions mattered.

The childminder sought the views of both children and their families. This was formally gathered through questionnaires and informally through daily discussions and text messages. These views were important to the childminder. The childminder and assistant were familiar with the self-evaluation tool 'A quality framework for day care of children, childminding and school-aged childcare' and had reflected on their service, identifying key strengths and areas for improvement.

The childminder and assistant were passionate about providing a high-quality service. They had undertaken a range of training courses to support their practice, keeping a written record of training. As part of this commitment the team met regularly with other local childminders to share practice and support each other. This approach ensures that children benefit from a service that continues to improve.

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 4.3: Staff deployment

Children benefitted from a childminder and assistant who understood the importance of developing strong and positive relationships. This considered approach supported children to feel safe, valued and loved within the service. Families' comments included, 'we feel very fortunate to have Anthea and Phoebe as part of our family circle. I would recommend them to anyone with no hesitation.'

'We are very happy with the care that Anthea and Phoebe provide. My son talks about going to play with them even on days he is not there!'

'Anthea and Phoebe are fantastic and provide an excellent service.'

Interactions were responsive, nurturing, and sensitive, this ensured children felt safe and secure within the service.

The childminder and their assistant had clear roles and responsibilities and communication was a key strength. This ensured that children's individual needs were consistently met across their day. The team were respectful and supportive of each other. They were very warm, caring, and sensitive in their approach and demonstrated positive team working. This promoted a happy, loving, and secure environment for children.

Positive team working had been developed. They empowered each other to share their individual skills and knowledge. This approach built on their existing strengths and supported the team to further develop their practice and skills. Regular meetings and training opportunities helped the childminder and their assistant to reflect on their practice, learning and development. This meant that children benefitted from consistent high-quality experiences.

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
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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