

Nature2nurture Childminding Child Minding

Prestonpans

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
17 May 2024

Service provided by:
David Murphy and Emma Murphy, a
partnership, trading as
Nature2nurture Childminding

Service provider number:
SP2023000136

Service no:
CS2023000212

About the service

David Murphy and Emma Murphy, (referred to as the childminders in this report) provide a childminding service from their family home, a town house in a residential area of Prestonpans, East Lothian. The service is close to local amenities, including parks, schools, shops and transport links.

The childminders are registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time up to 16 years of age when working alone; of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months.

When the childminders work together, they may care for a maximum of 8 children at any one time up to 16 years of age; of whom no more than 6 are not yet attending primary school, of whom no more than 2 are under 12 months. Numbers include the children of the childminder's family/household

Children access the ground floor of the property which includes, the kitchen/diner area and cosy playroom. The enclosed secure rear garden is accessed through the playroom.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Monday 13 May 2024 between the hours of 9:30 and 10:30. We returned announced on Thursday 16 May to complete the inspection, between 10:30 and 12:00. 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 registration information, information submitted by the service, and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke to and interacted with the two minded children using the service
- spoke with the childminders
- observed practice, daily routines, and children's experiences
- reviewed documents in the service
- considered feedback we received from three families using the service.

We gave feedback to one childminder by video call on Friday 17 May 2024.

Key messages

- Children were supported to feel valued, safe, and loved as the childminders provided warm and nurturing interactions.
- The childminders have a clear understanding of child development and caring for children's individual needs.
- Children's play and learning was enhanced through meaningful experiences within the local community.
- The childminders were committed to undertaking training to meet the needs of children in their care and improve their service.
- The childminders reflected on practice and made changes when needed to secure positive outcomes for children and families.
- There were quality assurance and self-evaluation processes in place to ensure children benefit from a culture of continuous improvement.

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?	4 - 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

The childminders were warm, compassionate and naturally attentive to children in their care. They got down to the child's level and listened and responded to children's individual needs and interests. The childminders had formed positive and trusting relationships with children and their families. One family told us, "Our relationship is great, I feel very comfortable approaching them. I am able to contact the childminders by phone, text, WhatsApp and email which is great! They are always very helpful".

A key strength of the service was the childminders understanding of child development and how they used this knowledge to support children in their care. For example, children's wellbeing was effectively supported through, personal planning which took account of the wellbeing indicators. The childminders open and friendly manner had facilitated positive partnerships with parents which enabled the childminders to respond quickly and sensitively to any changes in a child's life. Families' comments included, "The childminders encourage us to be active in our child's personal plan and we enjoy working towards their plan" and "I am able to contact my childminder out with my child's hours of care. I feel comfortable to approach them with anything that I require. They are very helpful and understanding".

The childminder had undertaken a wealth of training which enhanced their confidence and improved their practice. The childminders understood their role in safeguarding children. They had undertaken child protection training and were confident in the procedures to follow should they have welfare concerns about a child. As a result, children were safe, secure, and supported to grow and learn.

Although the children attending the service at the time of our inspection did not require medication, we found the childminders understood their responsibilities and clear systems were in place for administering medication safety.

Children experienced a relaxed, unhurried and sociable snack time. They sat together with the childminder and chatted as they enjoyed their snack of toast and fruit. The childminders were aware of what children liked to eat and encouraged children to try new foods. Drinks were available throughout the day, ensuring children were hydrated. As a result, children were developing healthy eating habits.

Personal care routines promoted children's dignity, privacy, and respect. Children were acknowledged and included in the process. This contributed to children's independence and fostering positive relationships.

Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children were having fun and were engaged in their play. Songs, rhymes, and stories supported children's language, communication, recognition of numbers and physical development.

Children's play and learning was promoted through a range of spontaneous and planned activities based on their needs and interests. For example, children explored a range open-ended natural resources they had collected from the beach and woods. They made playdough and used the natural materials to be creative.

This rich learning experience encouraged children's sensory skills, concentration, and hand - eye coordination.

Conversations about sharing and being kind, helped young children to recognise they need to be fair, compromise and cooperate. This supported children's communication and social skills.

Children benefited from the childminders having a good understanding of child development and early years practice. For example, they had developed their understanding of forest schools and open-ended play. Children's learning was further enhanced through regular and meaningful use of the community. Well planned outings enabled children to feel connected to their local community and the natural world. For example, they attended toddler groups, visited the library, enjoyed a wide range of walks in the forest, visited local parks and beaches. This contributed to children's wellbeing, social, emotional, and physical development.

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.

Quality Indicator 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

Children benefited from a home from home experience in the childminders comfortable, and well-furnished environment. Children had access to the well maintained ground floor of the property, which included hygienic nappy changing and toilet facilities, sleep room, and areas to play. Comfortable sofas and soft furnishings provided children with opportunities to relax and refresh. This contributed to children's care needs being met and them being happy and relaxed within their environment.

The childminders had implemented safety measures to ensure the wellbeing and protection of minded children. For example, a security system was in place and comprehensive risk assessments had been developed and were reviewed regularly. Safety hazards had been located and action taken to keep children safe, for example, a stair gate in the hall at the bottom of the stairs. and finger guards were fitted on doors. As a result, the childminders had created a secure and nurturing environment that promote children's wellbeing.

Effective infection prevention and control measures were in place to keep children safe. The home, furnishings and resources were clean. Children were encouraged to carry out good hand hygiene practices. Nappy changing facilities were well organised, and the childminder followed good practice guidance whilst carrying out personal care routines. This limited the spread of infection and helped to keep children safe.

The rear garden was in the process of being re-designed and level landscaped which meant it was unsafe for children to access. We agreed with the childminder, the garden should be a priority for improvement, to make sure children's garden activities were not compromised for too long.

The family dog was around the areas where minded children were cared for. When one childminder went to support a child to wash their hands before snack, the pet was left for a brief period with the children. Moving forward, to always ensure the safety of children, we asked the childminders to make sure children were never left alone with the family pet. The childminders were receptive to this feedback.

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 improvements are led well

The childminders commitment and enthusiasm to their role was a strength of the service. Their reassuring and friendly manner contributed to providing a quality service which was supportive and caring towards children and their families.

The childminders recognised the value and importance of positive relationships with families. Families shared that they had regular opportunities to provide feedback about the service. When asked what could be better, families told us, "I don't feel anything could be better, everything is going well, and we feel very lucky with the care our child receives" and "I think it is faultless". This demonstrated that children and their families were valued and at the heart of the service.

Self-evaluation using best practice guidance, helped the childminders identify strengths and areas they would like to develop in their service. The main priority outlined was to improve the rear garden, which was presently being re-designed and level landscaped. The childminders professional approach and commitment to improvement ensured children experienced consistently high quality care and facilities.

The childminders had developed a good practice documents library to support their service. The childminder used this system to carry out research, identify areas that needed improved and to keep up to date with good practice. The childminders told us this system also supported them to update their policies. As a result, policies remained relevant, and families benefited from the improved service.

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

The childminders worked well as a team to support the children in their care. They were enthusiastic and took time to reflect each day on their practice. As a result, they made changes to secure positive outcomes for children and their families. The childminders understood the importance of listening to families, to build trusting relationships, this supported them to meet children's individual needs. Families commented, "They are incredibly experienced and know what my child needs, almost as well as we do. If they are ever uncertain, they communicate with us, and check in with us regularly".

The childminders had a particularly good understanding of child development. The rights of the child were promoted and evident in their practice and in their interactions with children. Children were consulted and their views were respected and valued. As a result, children were happy, relaxed, and receiving care that was right for them.

Both childminders had obtained a BA childhood practice degree. They kept detailed learning and reflection logs, which evidenced training had enhanced their knowledge and skills. This helped the childminders to critically evaluate their practice, stay informed and provide a high quality service for children and their families. Children's wellbeing was supported through the warm, compassionate, and responsive care they

received by the childminders. Families told us, "I am very comfortable with my child's childminding service. The childminders are very welcoming, and they keep up to date, my child has the best time every day. We feel very lucky that our child has them as their childminders" and "I couldn't have chosen better childminders in my honest opinion. My mind is always at ease and my child loves them".

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
1.2 Children are safe and protected	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	4 - Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	4 - 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

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.