

Philp, Theresa Child Minding

Linlithgow

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
19 June 2024

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2008971974

Service no:
CS2008186935

About the service

Theresa Philps operates a childminding service from their home in a residential area of Linlithgow. They are 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 six will be under 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The service offers children access to the living room and conservatory, where they have ample space to play and rest. The kitchen/dining area is used for mealtimes and snacks. Children are supported to access the toilet on the first floor of the property. The fully enclosed outdoor space to the rear of the property offers children a safe, secure and interesting area to play. The service is close to amenities including parks, shops and local primary school and nursery.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Wednesday 19 June 2024, between 08:55 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 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:

- spoke with two children in the service
- reviewed digital responses from four families
- spoke with one family in person
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and interactions with children
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children benefitted from a homely environment that was well furnished and comfortable.
- The local and wider communities were very well used to extend children's experiences.
- Children experienced high quality care and support from a service that was dedicated to meeting their needs.
- Children were cared for with warmth, kindness and a nurturing approach.
- The childminder was motivated to provide the best possible experiences for children and families.

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 these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Quality Indicator 1.1 - Nurturing care and support

Children were cared for with warmth, kindness and a nurturing approach. They experienced care which was well considered to meet their individual needs. The childminder understood the importance of developing positive relationships with families. This ensured clear communication and provided a consistent approach for children. They took into account personal preferences and personalities, which meant the care provided met the needs of individuals. One parent said, "Theresa's service is personal, individualised, and very caring." Another family told us, "We can never truly repay Theresa for the service she provides as she goes above and beyond what anyone would expect from a childminder. Our children have the best care we could ever wish for." As a result, children were happy and relaxed as their overall wellbeing was supported and their needs were being met.

Packed lunches and snacks were provided by families. We observed children being encouraged to choose something from their bags for a morning snack. The childminder sat with them at the table, and chatted as they ate. The childminder told us that this was also the routine for lunchtime and that they often ate lunch with children. This helped to ensure children were safe, and provided a positive social experience that promoted close attachments.

Personal plans for children had been developed by the childminder and included the views of families and children. The information was used to support children's overall wellbeing and took account of the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

At the time of inspection no children required medication. We were satisfied that appropriate procedures were in place to safely administer, record and share information with families when it was needed.

Quality Indicator 1.3 - Play and learning

Children were busy and engaged in leading their play and learning throughout the inspection. The childminder offered activities in response to children's interests, and age and stage of development. For example, we saw children developing skills as they had fun sorting items by colour. They also enjoyed working with the childminder to build a large jigsaw. The effective use of questioning by the skilled childminder encouraged children to extend their thinking. Open ended and natural resources offered opportunities for children to explore their creativity. There was a balance of spontaneous and planned activities which promoted children's choice. This meant children were happy and confident as they explored their imagination, learning and curiosity.

The local and wider communities were very well used to extend children's experiences. They enjoyed exploring nature and outdoor physical play as they visited country parks. Regular outings to places of interest such as, The Kelpies, fruit farms, and feeding lambs, further enhanced children's experiences. They also had opportunities to meet with other adults and children when they attended regular group sessions. As a result children's opportunities for play and learning were enhanced as they developed strong connections to their community.

Quality observations of children's learning were recorded for each child. These were linked to current guidance and identified possible next steps in children's learning. Through careful tracking processes we could see that they were making good progress in the setting. Photographs of children's experiences were shared with parents via digital technology. Paper journals and floorbooks were also available for children to share with their families. This meant that children were cared for by a childminder who was motivated to encourage and support children to reach their potential.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and 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 a homely environment that was well furnished, comfortable and offered lots of natural light and ventilation. Children and families immediately felt welcomed as they were warmly greeted by the childminder when they arrived at the service. This gave them a sense of belonging, and helped to promote positive relationships with families.

The living room was organised and offered children ample space to play, rest and relax. They also had access to the conservatory and kitchen/dining areas. Children's independence was encouraged as the childminder supported them to access the first floor bathroom. The carefully considered and organised layout enabled children to lead their learning and gave them a strong message that they mattered.

The back garden was fully enclosed, secure and offered children a safe and interesting space to play. There was a variety of good quality resources for them to explore, which further supported children's play and learning experiences. This provided children with opportunities for physical outdoor play as they learned the benefits of an active lifestyle.

The property was well maintained indoors and outdoors. The childminder had developed risk assessments for the service. This ensured children's safety was promoted as potential risks had been minimised. We discussed how involving children in this process could provide opportunities for them to learn important life skills.

The childminder understood the importance of keeping children's personal information secure. They asked families for permission before taking photographs and shared their policies with families using the service.

Children's safety and wellbeing was promoted through effective infection prevention and control measures. Cleaning routines further supported these measures. This meant we were satisfied that the spread of infection was minimised. As a result children were cared for in a safe and secure environment where their wellbeing was prioritised.

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and 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 vision, values and aims for the service were evident in the warm interactions and positive

relationships we witnessed throughout the inspection. Children told us that they enjoyed going to the childminders house. One child said, "Theresa is really nice, helpful and kind." The nurturing nature of the childminder meant that children felt loved, safe and secure.

The service had a strong commitment to continual improvement. Positive, trusting relationships had been established with children and families, and the childminder knew them well. We discussed meaningful ways to gather the views of children and families to inform future development of the service. This would help to ensure children and families felt involved and that their views were considered in developing the service.

The childminder made good use of the Care Inspectorates' document, A Quality Framework for daycare of children, childminding, and school aged childcare. This supported them to reflect on the service they provided, and helped to identify any areas for improvement.

The childminder had developed positive working relationships with the local authority and the Scottish Childminding Association. They were approved to work in partnership with West Lothian Council to provide funded childcare for some children. This meant that children experienced high quality care and support from a childminder who was dedicated to meeting their needs.

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and 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 responsive and kind interactions we witnessed supported children to feel valued and respected. The childminder understood the importance of listening to children and families. One family told us, "we feel she [the childminder] genuinely cares not only about the children but about all of us, as a family." This enabled them to build strong relationships and provided appropriate care and support for individuals. As a result children's emotional wellbeing benefitted from positive attachments.

The very experienced and skilled childminder demonstrated a good understanding of how children develop and learn. They promoted children's curiosity, independence and confidence with the use of skilled questioning and sensitive interactions. The childminder's enabling attitude supported children to achieve their potential. This meant children's self-esteem was encouraged to grow in a setting where they were happy, having fun and felt important.

The childminder was committed to providing the best possible experiences for children, and to their own continuous professional development. They had achieved a recognised early learning and childcare qualification, and made good use of best practice documents to improve their service. They also attended relevant training courses, and regularly engaged with other childminders in the area to share ideas and good practice. Through reflective practice the childminder had identified areas for their own professional development which would further promote positive outcomes for children. This ensured children benefitted from an experienced and motivated childminder.

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
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	5 - Very Good

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