

Tracy Robertson Childminder Child Minding

Glenrothes

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
30 April 2025

Service provided by:
Tracy Robertson

Service provider number:
SP2014986054

Service no:
CS2014327672

About the service

Tracy Robertson operates a childminding service from their home in a residential area of Glenrothes, Fife. The childminder may provide care to a maximum of six children at any one time under 16 years of age, of whom no more than two are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is aged under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the children of the childminder's family.

The service offers children a dedicated playroom where they can choose to play with a variety of toys and books. The living room is accessed directly from the play room and provides children with space to rest and relax. Children also use this space to eat their lunch and have snacks, supported by the childminder. The children have access to a garden area at the front of the property. The service is close to local amenities including parks and the local nursery and school.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on between 07:45 to 10:45 on Friday 25 April and 11.00 to 11.45 on Wednesday 30 April. 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:

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- spent time with three children.
- Reviewed feedback from families.
- spoke with the childminder.
- observed practice and daily life.
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were nurtured and experienced warm, fun and caring interactions.
- Children were protected from harm as the childminder had a good knowledge of their role in protecting and safeguarding.
- Children experienced fun, joy and laughter.
- The children benefitted from regular outdoor experiences.
- The childminder demonstrated a professional attitude to their role.

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?	4 - 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/people, therefore we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

Quality indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support.

Children were nurtured and experienced warm, fun and caring interactions. As a result, they had formed strong, positive attachments with the childminder. Their individual needs were respected and understood which enabled the childminder to respond effectively.

Children benefitted from consistent approaches to their care. Families had regular opportunities to share information with the childminder. A parent told us "The childminder and myself discuss any needs my child has and work out a plan to help". The childminder knew children well and used information shared by parents to support children's routines. This meant that routines were consistent in meeting children's needs. This process would benefit from recorded personal planning information being regularly reviewed with families on a formal basis.

Children enjoyed a calm and relaxed breakfast experience. The childminder sat nearby the children engaging in conversation about the food on offer and their favourite foods. The food that children were accessing was provided from home by families. The childminder encouraged children to be independent by accessing dishes and tidying up after they had finished. As a result children benefitted from a sociable family meal time experience.

There were no children at the time of inspection requiring medication. The childminder had forms for families to share information appropriate to supporting children's wellbeing, health and safety in relation to the administration of medication. Also at the time of inspection there were no children attending who required or needed a sleep. There was a large comfortable sofa, which children could access for rest and relaxation. Children were protected from harm as the childminder had a good knowledge of their role in protecting and safeguarding, keeping them safe.

Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning.

Children experienced fun, joy and laughter. They were supported to choose and lead with their own play and learning experiences. The childminder offered children choices which reflected their interests. At times, the childminder provided children with opportunities to explore and investigate events such as St Patricks Day and Pancake day. The childminder gave children space and time to engage in play. They interacted with the children in a meaningful, fun and engaging manner. This enriched children's play and extended their ideas and learning.

The childminder demonstrated a good understanding of children's development and provided effective support to meet their needs and to help them achieve. The childminder was responsive to children's choices and supported them to lead their play independently. Parents told us "The childminder and I will talk about activities provided and they always welcome suggestions. They will send me updates with photos about how my child's morning has went".

Children were supported to develop skills in language, literacy and numeracy. For example, children opted to

play trampoline football, counting goals, supporting each other to problem solve and turn take. The childminder used previous experiences to reflect and recall learning with the children, celebrating successes. As a result, children were engaged in play and were excited to reflect on achievements.

Significant experiences and learning were shared with parents via social media app. This enabled families to be involved in children's learning and development, with updates of their achievements. This process also supported the childminder to plan experiences to support individual children's interests and development. Younger children had a communication book, which supported the exchange of key information from the childminder to home. The childminder told us that the book helps to share information from the service with families, this enabled the childminder to focus on the achievements and next steps for individuals. As a result, children experienced high quality play and learning.

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/people, therefore we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

Quality indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities.

Children experienced care in a well-furnished and comfortable environment. The childminder had created a homely environment for children to play and relax which supported them to feel confident and secure. They were kept safe as the service was well maintained and clean. Children's art work and motivational statements were displayed throughout the playroom, giving the sense that children were at the heart of the service.

Children's stages of development and interests were well considered and reflected in the selection of resources on offer. Toys and resources were easily accessible which promoted choice and were based on children's interests. This stimulated, engaged and challenged children in their play. There were opportunities for children to play with loose parts and open-ended materials which sparked children's curiosity and fostered imagination and creativity. For example, children enjoyed dressing up and role play experiences.

The childminder continued to promote outdoor learning opportunities, which meant that children benefitted from regular outdoor experiences. They enjoyed playing in the garden and going to the woodland area and parks. We observed play outside in the garden, the childminder took the lead from the children and participated in football games, children were having fun, laughing and cheering. The childminder had established good safety practices with children when exploring the local community. Children were familiar with routines such as staying together and crossing roads safely. This helped children to develop an awareness of risks and how to stay safe.

Children's safety and wellbeing was supported by indoor and outdoor environments which were well maintained. Toys, resources and areas were regularly checked which meant that risks were monitored well. Children's health and wellbeing benefitted from very good infection prevention and control practices. The childminder promoted effective handwashing, supporting good hygiene skills whilst promoting the development of independence.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvement are led well.

Children and families experienced a warm and welcoming environment, where aims and objectives were shared so that a clear vision was in place for the service and expectations agreed. Policies and procedures were in place to keep children safe and support their health and wellbeing. These were shared with families prior to starting at the setting.

The childminder recognised the importance of positive relationships and actively sought their feedback to inform the development of the service. Informal methods such as messages via social media and conversations enabled families to share their ideas and suggestions. The childminder listened and acted upon their feedback to help make improvements. The childminder should now consider formal ways to obtain feedback from families and children, which would help to contribute to the self-evaluation of the service.

The childminder continued to reflect on their practice and service. Although this was completed informally, they spoke confidently about recent changes to the service and were able to reflect on the impact on children and families. The childminder spoke about recent developments in the service, families shared "The childminder and I will talk about activities provided and always welcomes suggestions". We spoke to the childminder about implementing formal self-evaluation structure to support planned improvements whilst using quality assurance to track and identify next steps in the service. This would enable the childminder to see where changes would make the greatest impact on children's experiences and outcomes.

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/people, therefore we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

Quality indicator 4.1: Staff skills, knowledge and values.

Children experienced compassionate and responsive care which enabled them to feel happy and relaxed. The childminder understood children's individual needs and family circumstances which had a positive impact on their wellbeing and development. They recognised the value of strong attachments and responded sensitively to children's cues offering comfort and reassurances. Families were positive about the childminder's approach, their comments included "The childminder is a fun, bubbly, friendly caring professional. She is fantastic at her job; she has a heart for childminder and without a doubt she is the best".

The childminder demonstrated a professional attitude to their role. They recognised the importance of fun in children's play and were enthusiastic and committed to providing high quality care, play and learning experiences. Children benefitted from the childminder's creativity and sense of fun, which impacted positively on the experiences that children and families received. As a result, children were thriving and excited to attend the service.

The childminder kept up to date with best practice and guidance through the Care Inspectorate updates. They were familiar with the Care Inspectorate Hub and used this to learn about the changes to best practice. The childminder had joined a social media group with other childminders to share ideas and practice. The childminder is currently attending training in relation to promoting wellbeing and resilience for children, they reflected upon their own practice and deepened their understanding of children's development. This

enabled the childminder to support families and offer strategies to promote wellbeing and resilience at home. This promoted continuity of care between the service and home.

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?	4 - Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	4 - Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	5 - Very Good

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