

Quality Assurance Report

Kirstie Spencer Childminder tiney home nursery

In line with the EYFS Statutory Framework and the tiney Quality Framework

tiney

Ofsted registered childminder agency

tiney values



Play is a superpower

Young children learn best when they play. tiney childminders foster a love of learning by providing child-led playful experiences.



Curious minds see more

When we're curious, we are more open, inclusive and ready to learn. Curiosity allows an enthusiasm for understanding the world.



Asking for help shows wisdom, not weakness

When we ask for help we not only show an awareness of our own limitations, but also show that we value others.



Rest is rocket fuel

When we're rested we have more reserves and make better choices. When we look after ourselves, it is easier to look after others.



You grow stronger after a fall

We believe that falling down is a natural part of learning and growing, not a sign of failure. We treat any setbacks as opportunities for learning and embrace trial and repetition.



Everyday we can earn trust

Trusting relationships are at the heart of every tiney home. When there is trust, there is great fun and learning for the children,

QA Report for Kirstie Spencer Childminder tiney home nursery

Provider	Kirstie Spencer Childminder tiney home nursery
Postcode	DN227TA
Attending Manager	• **Kirstie Spencer** — TY1023055
Date of visit	12/10/2026 | 13:30
Quality Consultant	Dan Sissons
Overall grading	**Good**

Summary

Kirstie provides a welcoming and nurturing home-from-home environment where children are encouraged to be their best selves. Her reflective approach ensures that children's interests are at the heart of daily activities, fostering confidence and independence. Kirstie's commitment to continuous professional development and strong partnerships with families contribute to a high-quality experience for all children in her care.

Professional leadership

Good

Kirstie demonstrates a strong commitment to professional growth and maintains a secure understanding of safeguarding practices. She consistently carries out regular sleep checks, utilising both a camera linked to her iPad and physical checks every ten minutes, setting an alarm on her phone to ensure children's safety. Kirstie is well-versed in recording and reporting procedures and has readily accessible contact information for her Local Safeguarding Partners (LSP).

Kirstie is highly reflective in her practice, meticulously noting what activities children enjoy and what could be improved for future planning. This thoughtful approach extends to her continuous professional development, where she proactively seeks training in areas such as schema play, new EYFS updates, first aid, loose parts and DSL training. Her recent engagement with schema play training, for example, was directly motivated by an enrolment of babies, prompting her to research and purchase resources to support young children's schematic play safely.

Her relationships with parents have evolved into strong, collaborative partnerships, moving beyond transactional drop-offs and pick-ups. Kirstie actively encourages families to 'come for a coffee and watch their little ones play', fostering a warm, family-feel environment. While she has encountered some difficulties with the tiney app for signing children in, she diligently maintains a written register, ensuring compliance and accurate record-keeping.

Quality of education

Good

Kirstie offers a rich and varied curriculum that is deeply rooted in children's interests and promotes free choice. The children frequently enjoy engaging trips, visiting local places like the train station and park, and even attending the local school's annual play, which helps prepare them for future transitions. Her play space is thoughtfully resourced, allowing children to access items independently from shelves, and offers free-flow play to the outdoors.

Outdoor play is a highlight, with children engaging in sensory experiences such as exploring pumpkins in a tuff tray and washing them for painting. Kirstie skilfully integrates mathematical concepts into these activities, supporting children as they discuss 'big' and 'small' pumpkins. She is a natural narrator of play, enhancing language development by counting and naming colours as children stack cubes or encouraging extended sentences through open-ended questioning when children play with peg dolls, pretending they are a digger driver and an airplane pilot.

Kirstie's planning is responsive, with next steps regularly reviewed and developed from children's emerging interests. She particularly focuses on communication and language, identifying specific areas to support speech development, such as encouraging children to slow down their words or promoting extended sentences. This intentional approach ensures that learning experiences are meaningful and tailored to individual needs.

Personal development and independence

Good

Kirstie fosters a strong sense of personal development and independence in the children. She effectively manages dummy use, ensuring children have them for sleep and comfort upon waking, but then encourages them to hand them over before returning to play. Children are actively encouraged to manage their own personal care, such as getting their own cups, taking off and putting on their shoes, and dressing themselves in coats.

Meal times are a collaborative and independent experience, with children self-serving healthy options like sandwiches, fruits, vegetable sticks, yoghurt and homemade pastries. They also enjoy helping to prepare meals, such as making pin wheels, which further enhances their sense of agency and practical life skills. The environment itself promotes free choice, with activities not always adult-led, allowing Kirstie to scaffold learning based on what children choose to explore.

This approach means children are consistently supported in developing essential self-help skills and making choices about their daily activities. Kirstie's responsive scaffolding ensures that children are challenged and supported appropriately, building their confidence and competence in a nurturing setting.

Behaviour and wellbeing

Good

Kirstie creates a nurturing and secure environment where children's emotional wellbeing is a clear priority. She understands the importance of co-regulation, offering cuddles to children when they wake to help them regulate their emotions before they confidently return to play. This responsive approach ensures children feel safe, respected and understood.

The settling-in process is carefully tailored to each child and family. Parents are invited to visit the setting, with or without their children, and are encouraged to ask as many questions as they need. Kirstie offers a flexible settling-in period, typically starting 3-4 weeks before the official start date, adapting to the individual needs of each child and family to build secure attachments.

Kirstie also provides excellent support for children transitioning to school. She completes comprehensive transition reports for parents and offers additional meetings for children who are working with other professionals, such as speech and language therapists. This proactive and collaborative approach ensures that transitions are smooth and well-supported, fostering confidence and continuity for the children.

Actions to be compliant

No compliance actions were required following this visit.



Key features of tiney home nurseries:

- A home-from-home
- Small ratios and strong, loving relationships
- A highly personalised approach for each child
- Regular book club and community events
- Daily outdoor learning and home-cooked meals to keep children fit and healthy
- Humour, fun, songs and stories
- Child-led playful learning
- A learning environment set up to give children choice and build their independence
- Irresistible learning opportunities that develop a deep love of learning
- Rich conversation and exploration, which builds children's confidence and creativity
- Sensitive support for children's emotional development and a focus on building resilience

All of our tiney homes are different, but all offer brilliant learning resources, creativity and the freedom to play and explore. Our community love coming together to share ideas for their homes and the activities they do inside (and outside!) them — both by chatting on the app, and increasingly getting together in real life too.

tiney