

Childminder: Linsey Paul

Local Authority: Highland

In April 2022, Linsey Paul, 28, from the village of Ardersier spotted an online advert for a pilot project looking for new childminders in some areas of Highland which offered support to get started.

Linsey had often thought about working with children and when she looked into childminding further, she was delighted to find that it ticked all of the boxes on her career wish list. Top of this list was a career that enabled her to be there for her own wee girl, who is just two, while being able to work with children, and to have the flexibility to set her own hours. Linsey had always thought that she'd like to work with children and so this was too good an opportunity to pass up.

Linsey Paul, Childminder



“My friends and family always encouraged me to think about working with children. They kept saying I'd be really good at it and it was always something I thought I might try but I had no idea how to get started.

My previous roles had included being a hairdresser and working in an opticians - I had no experience of the childcare sector whatsoever. I saw the advert and it was like a lightbulb moment – I was so excited because something just clicked, and I knew this was right for me.”

Linsey was fairly new to the village of Ardersier but had spotted a gap in the market. She knew there was demand locally for high-quality childcare options.

“There is no other available childcare in the village. Some parents have to travel long distances to find before and after school childcare so I knew it would really help families in the area to have this particular childcare option on their own doorstep.”

Local demand and doors open to ABC Childminding!

Linsey's childminding business has quickly become a vital community asset. When she was working towards becoming a childminder, she began mentioning it to friends and family locally and soon found herself inundated with enquiries. So much so that she opened a waiting list in anticipation of becoming registered with the Care Inspectorate and soon found it was full up!

In October 2022, she welcomed the first children into her childminding setting, ABC Childminding. At the moment, Linsey is focusing solely on providing before and after school care. On occasion, some parents may have to drop their child off earlier in the morning and are appreciative to have this flexibility in their childcare should they need it.

Linsey said: "I cannot believe how much has changed in the relatively short space of time since I first saw that advert – in just six months I have a completely new career, I'm self-employed and running my own business. Working with children is something that I knew I would love and I'm delighted that I finally found my route into this!"

Linsey Cameron, parent, said: "Linsey has been an absolute God-send to families in Ardersier. We have needed a childminder in the village for a long time. I previously had to rely on friends to look after my girls and it was very stressful trying to arrange who was going to be looking after them each day and it could be confusing for the girls. Linsey has provided continuity and my girls absolutely adore her - they have so much fun doing arts and crafts and games. They can't wait to see her anytime they are due to go!"

Interested in becoming a professional childminder?

SCMA is delighted to be embarking on another recruitment campaign with a fantastic package of fully funded support and training available to successful applicants, providing everything needed to establish a new childminding business from home. The aim is to increase the number of childminding businesses, targeting more areas of Scotland where there are currently not enough childminders to meet the level of demand from working families seeking local, high-quality, nurturing and flexible childcare. You don't need any previous childcare experience to become a professional childminder – but it is essential that you have a passion for working with and supporting the learning and development of children.

To find out more about the target communities and areas, please visit our [website](#)