

# The Wright Childcare Child Minding

Denny

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
23 May 2024

**Service provided by:**  
Mhairi Wright trading as The Wright  
Childcare Mhairi Wright trading as The  
Wright Childcare

**Service provider number:**  
SP2006961336

**Service no:**  
CS2006134725

## About the service

Mhairi Wright operates a childminding service registered as The Wright Childcare, from their home in Dunipace, Denny. They are registered to provide a care service to a maximum of eight 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 childminders family.

Children benefit from a dedicated playroom with access to the downstairs toilet as well as the kitchen / dining area. The fully enclosed, all weather outdoor space to the rear of the property offers children a safe and secure area to play. The service is close to the local primary school, nursery and amenities, such as shops and parks.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Wednesday 22 May 2024 between 12:00 and 14:00. 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 children in the service
- reviewed digital responses from five families
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and interactions with children
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- Children experienced responsive and nurturing interactions from the childminder.
- Children were cared for in a homely environment that was comfortable, welcoming and offered them space to play and relax.
- Children had regular access to fresh air and exercise as they had fun exploring the local community.
- The childminder was committed to continual improvement.
- Children's emotional wellbeing benefitted from positive attachments.

## 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 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 nurtured and cared for by a childminder who knew each of them very well. The childminder offered children support and encouragement to promote their independence. For example, as children were toilet training. Parents described the childminder as "friendly, caring and reliable." One family told us, "My child is always happy to go to Mhairi's and their confidence has grown so much since being in her care." Another parent said, "I have a great relationship with Mhairi I am so happy I found her and totally trust her with the care of my child." As a result children felt loved and secure as their overall wellbeing was supported and their needs were being met.

Families provided packed lunches for children. Although we did not observe mealtimes, the childminder spoke knowledgeably about the benefits of everyone coming together to eat. They recognised the importance of sitting and eating with children when possible, to keep them safe as they ate. They also understood that a relaxed, unhurried mealtime provided a positive social experience and was a rich opportunity to promote close attachments.

Children's overall wellbeing was supported through the effective use of personal planning, which included the views of parents and children. The childminder used this information, alongside information shared informally by families at drop off and pick up time, to support children's routines. Personal plans were updated regularly with families. As a result, the childminder could respond to changes in children's lives. This encouraged strong relationships and meant children experienced a consistent and continuous approach to their care.

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

During the inspection children were busy and having fun as they led their play and learning. They were supported to access activities offered in response to their interests. A mixture of planned adult led routines such as attending groups, as well as spontaneous child led play, promoted children's choice and independence. The childminder knew children very well and was responsive to their needs and requests. We observed them talking to children and supporting them as they developed an understanding of how to share. This meant that children were happy, confident and making progress.

The local community was well used by the childminder to extend children's experiences. They had fun as they explored nature, visited parks and met with other children and adults at local groups they attended. Children told us they liked going to the park, and collecting sticks when they went to the "green bridge." As a result children's opportunities for play and learning were improved as they developed strong connections to their own and wider communities.

High quality observations were used to record children's learning and were linked to SHANARRI wellbeing indicators. This supported the childminder to plan possible next steps for learning opportunities and highlighted children's progress. Photographs of children's experiences were also shared with families via

digital technology. This provided parents with opportunities to speak to children about their day, what they had been doing, and what they had learned. This meant that children were progressing well as they were encouraged to achieve their potential.

Children present during the inspection particularly enjoyed looking at photographs printed by the childminder. We discussed developing ways for children to revisit and celebrate their learning. This would provide opportunities for them to reflect on their experiences and share successes and achievements with their friends.

## 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 were cared for in a homely environment that was comfortable, welcoming and offered them space to play and relax. Children's photographs were attractively displayed to create a sense of belonging. The dedicated playroom was well organised with a variety of activities for children to explore. We suggested using visual prompts to label resource boxes. This would support children to further develop their independence skills as they could see what each box contained. The carefully considered layout offered children choice and gave them a strong message that they mattered.

The outdoor area at the rear of the property was fully enclosed, secure and offered children a safe space to play and enjoy fresh air. The all-weather surfaces provided opportunities for active, physical outdoor play all year round. Children also had regular access to fresh air and exercise as they had fun and made use of outdoor spaces in the local community. Outdoor experiences meant children were learning about the benefits of an active lifestyle that promoted their health and wellbeing.

The childminder understood the importance of keeping children's personal information secure and followed General Data Protection Regulations. They asked for permission before taking photographs and shared their confidentiality policy with families using the service.

The property was well maintained indoors and outdoors. Risk assessments ensured that children's safety was promoted as potential risks had been minimised. Infection prevention and control measures were in place. Regular cleaning of toys and resources, alongside effective handwashing at key times 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?

**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 3.1 - Quality assurance and improvements are led well

Positive, trusting relationships had been established with children and families, and the childminder knew them well. Their views were gathered through observations and informal discussions. These were used to influence the care provided and were considered when planning improvements within the service. We discussed ways to encourage children and families to formally share their thoughts and ideas. These should be recorded and used as a starting point for future improvement planning. This would also support children

and families to have meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development of the service.

The childminder was reflective in their practice and had developed ways to evaluate the service. They used systems that worked for them such as mind maps, to identify what was working well and potential areas for improvement. This demonstrated their understanding and commitment to continual improvement.

The vision, values and aims of the service were evident in the supportive interactions and positive relationships we observed during the inspection. Families told us, "Mhairi is very good about communicating about the day and how my child has been. I feel I can tell Mhairi about any issues to do with my child and she is very supportive in helping to deal with them." The encouraging and supportive ethos ensured children felt loved, secure and safe as they experienced a consistent approach to their care.

## 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 very experienced childminder demonstrated a good understanding of how children develop and learn. They were mindful of this as they planned activities for children, ensuring they were age and stage appropriate. Through reflective practice the childminder identified areas for their own professional development which would further promote positive outcomes for children. They had achieved a recognised early learning and childcare qualification and were registered to work in partnership with the local authority. The childminder was also a member of the Scottish Childminding Association. They regularly engaged with other childminders in the area to share ideas and good practice. This meant that children experienced high quality care and support from a service that was dedicated to meeting their needs.

The responsive and nurturing interactions we witnessed supported children to feel valued and secure. Cuddles received from children throughout the inspection clearly demonstrated their strong attachments with the childminder. Families shared their thoughts as they told us about the childminder. One family said, "She is kind, caring and reliable and I know my child is happy there and she is in good hands." Another family told us the childminder was, "Very friendly and caring."

The childminder understood the importance of listening to children and families. Regular communication meant that the childminder was able to respond to individual needs and preferences. 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.

## Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://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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