

# Sylvia Nash Childcare Child Minding

EDINBURGH

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
3 July 2024

**Service provided by:**  
Sylvia Nash

**Service provider number:**  
SP2018990070

**Service no:**  
CS2018368953

## About the service

Sylvia Nash provides a childminding service from their family home in the Saughton area of Edinburgh. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of six children up to 16 years of age.

The service is close to the local primary school and nursery, shops and parks. Children have access to the living room with dining space, kitchen, toilet, and playroom. There is a secure garden to the rear of the property.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Wednesday 3 July 2024 between 09:45 and 13:00. One inspector carried out the inspection.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke with two children using the service
- considered feedback from four families through an online questionnaire
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents relating to the care of children and the management of the service.

## Key messages

- Children experienced warm, nurturing care that helped them feel happy, safe and loved.
- Daily outdoor activities supported children's health and wellbeing.
- Children were at the heart of the service and were cared for by a childminder who knew them and their families well.
- Children's personal plans were detailed and reviewed with children and their parents ensuring their health and wellbeing needs were supported.
- The childminder's self evaluation and quality assurance procedures enabled them to deliver a professional service.
- The childminder was committed to their own professional development which enhanced their practice.

## 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 how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

### Quality Indicator 1.1 - Nurturing care and support

Children experienced warm and loving care as the childminder had a nurturing and caring approach. All interactions were positive, and the childminder had a very good understanding of individual children's needs and how to support them. One parent commented, 'Our childminder really is amazing and an extension of our family'.

Children's health and wellbeing was supported well with the use of personal plans and progress development records. The childminder knew children and families very well and it was clear positive trusting relationships had been formed. This allowed them to work closely with families to identify appropriate next steps in children's learning and development. Their partnership approach promoted continuity of care. One parent told us, 'Sylvia has been very good at arranging care reviews and she is always very responsive'. Another parent commented, 'Sylvia is great at keeping on top of personal plans and ensuring children get opportunities to develop. We are kept informed and involved as parents, jointly establishing goals and being given regular updates'.

Children benefited from an unhurried and sociable mealtime experience. The childminder provided nutritious snacks and meals. Children were involved in preparing for mealtimes, which provided opportunities to develop important independence skills. The childminder ate with children which created a positive social experience and provided a rich opportunity to promote close, secure attachments.

Children's achievements were recognised and shared with families through a variety of methods. The childminder kept in regular contact with families through a digital messaging service and used an online platform to share children's play and learning experiences. This helped families feel included in their children's experiences when in the childminder's care. One parent commented, 'Sylvia keeps us well updated on our child's progress via the online app and through direct communication'.

### Quality Indicator 1.3 - Play and learning

Children were actively involved in leading their play and learning. There was a balance of spontaneous and planned activities which promoted children's choice and independence. Planning was responsive, with children's interests at the heart of it. One parent told us, 'Sylvia is a very diligent and attentive individual who gives children in her care a great experience'. A range of activities and experiences gave children opportunities to develop their imagination and creativity. There was a good variety of easily accessible toys and resources, such as building blocks, games, jigsaws, books, and arts and crafts materials. The childminder understood the importance and benefits of providing play experiences that took account of children's interests and stages of development. This ensured experiences met children's needs and enhanced their learning, and children were happy and having fun.

The childminder told us children had regular opportunities to bake, and on the day of the inspection they made banana bread. Children were very well supported to lead this and the childminder's interactions promoted children's social skills, such as turn taking and problem solving. The childminder's effective approach supported the development of children's skills in language, literacy and numeracy.

Children's health and wellbeing was supported by good opportunities for fresh air and exercise. Children benefitted from use of an enclosed garden, walks in the community and trips to local parks. The childminder had visited the museum with children and they had arranged a trip to the Botanic Garden. This helped children lead active healthy lives and feel included in their local and wider community. One parent told us, 'Children go to the park or spend some time outdoors nearly every day. They go to a different play park most days of the week'.

Children enjoyed showing us flowers they had planted in the childminder's garden. Involving children in this way, helped them feel included in the childminder's home and gave them a sense of responsibility.

The childminder's understanding of child development supported them to enhance and extend children's play. Their rights based approach supported children's wellbeing and promoted their rights to play and have their voices heard. This further supported children to feel valued, loved, and respected. One parent told us, 'Sylvia is invested and interested in children's development in a loving caring way. We couldn't ask for a better environment and relationship for our child'.

### 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, therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

#### Quality Indicator 2.2 - Children experience high quality facilities

The childminder had created a warm, welcoming environment for children. Areas used were well maintained and benefitted from natural light and ventilation. The childminder carried out daily checks and formal risk assessments were regularly reviewed and updated. The childminder confidently discussed how they would identify and assess risk throughout their day. Children were involved in learning about risk and how to manage this. For example, when playing in the garden, and discussing road safety when out in the community. This ensured children enjoyed a variety of activities and play experiences that provided challenge and fun in a safe way.

There were appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children. Thorough hand washing procedures were embedded and children understood the need for good hand hygiene. As a result, children played in a safe environment and the spread of infection was minimised.

Information about children and families was stored safely and securely. The childminder understood the importance of protecting information as they were registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). This demonstrated their commitment to understanding and following guidance on data protection.

## How good is our leadership?

## 5 – Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

### Quality Indicator 3.1 – Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The childminder was committed to providing a service that met children and family's needs and they worked well with parents to achieve this. They used the two stars and a wish strategy with parents, to seek positive and constructive comments to support their reflective practice and self-evaluation. One parent commented, 'Communication with Sylvia has always been strong'. Another parent told us, 'Sylvia is always open to discussions and ideas'.

Children were listened to and their interests carefully considered to inform planning and development of the service. An improvement plan demonstrated the childminder's dedication to continuous improvement based on reflective practice. Their priorities for improvement included promoting and improving opportunities to explore nature outdoors and in the garden. One child told us about a ladybird they had spotted outside and proudly showed us the drawing they had made which was displayed on the playroom wall. Another priority area, which had been influenced through discussions with parents, was to include more trips to local areas. The childminder had planned more trips taking into account children's areas of interests. This meant children were accessing a service committed to meeting their needs and continuous improvement.

## 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, therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

### Quality Indicator 4.1 – Staff skills, knowledge, and values

The childminder was passionate about providing high quality care. They were skilled, experienced and dedicated to their own professional development to promote continuous improvement. They had achieved a recognised early learning and childcare qualification and used the learning and reflective accounts from their studies to continually seek ways to improve. They had completed a variety of webinars and online training programmes, which helped develop their knowledge and understanding and build confidence in their abilities. They had undertaken a diversity and inclusion training course which included how to support children to process and understand their emotions. One parent recognised this and told us, 'Sylvia works hard and is very talented'. This meant children and families experienced care and support from a childminder who was committed and passionate about their role and responsibilities. One parent commented, 'What we appreciate about Sylvia is her professionalism and her friendless combined. It's exceptional'.

The childminder spoke positively with children and recognised their individual strengths. When discussing individual children, they did so with genuine care, respect and kindness. Their compassionate approach allowed children to develop a positive view of themselves and develop trusting and secure relationships. One parent told us, 'Our child talks about Sylvia in the mornings and at weekends. They run in to see her and is secure in this relationship'.

## 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?	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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