

# Bailey-Regnaut, Helene Child Minding

Linlithgow

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
19 July 2024

**Service provided by:**  
Helene Bailey-Regnaut

**Service provider number:**  
SP2011982704

**Service no:**  
CS2011299411

## About the service

Helene Bailey-Regnaut provides a childminding service from their property in a quiet residential area of Linlithgow. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of six children up to 16 years of age. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own children.

The service is close to local primary schools, shops, parks and other amenities. The children are cared for in the playroom and kitchen and have use of a downstairs toilet. Children also have access to the front garden and an enclosed rear garden.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 17 July 2024 between 13:00 and 15:45. Feedback was given on 19 July 2024. 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 two children using the service
- received feedback from three families
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and children's experiences
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- Children had built strong relationships with the childminder, and this was demonstrated through the responsive care they received.
- Children were enabled to lead their own play through a balance of planned and spontaneous experiences. Their opportunities for play and learning were enhanced through strong connections within their local and wider community.
- Effective quality assurance processes, including self-evaluation were in place which supported continuous improvement.
- The childminder was committed and motivated to learn. They engaged with a range of professional development to improve 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?	4 - 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?

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 1.1: Nurturing care and support

Children had built strong relationships with the childminder and this was demonstrated through the responsive care they received. They experienced warm, caring and kind interactions throughout their daily experiences. For example, during personal care, the childminder chatted and had fun interactions with children which created a positive and relaxing experience.

Children experienced a sociable and relaxed mealtime. They had been involved in the preparation of snack which provided rich learning opportunities and helped them to develop life skills. The childminder offered children support with feeding where needed which helped them to succeed. Children sat to eat their snack, which promoted a safe mealtime experience. The childminder's supportive approach encouraged children to try new foods. The gooseberries given had not been sliced to minimise the potential choking risk. Following our discussion, the childminder was responsive and immediately addressed this. The childminder has advised us that normal practice was to slice small pieces of fruit and this was included in their health and safety policy.

Effective use of personal plans supported the childminder to meet each child's needs and wishes. Children experienced continuity and consistency of care as families shared information about their child. This information was used by the childminder to ensure children's home routines and preferences were followed.

Sleep routines were reflective of children and families' individual needs and wishes, for example, children were offered their comforters to help them to settle. A child slept in a buggy which did not provide a high quality sleep space. There was no sleep policy in place to outline the childminder's practice to keep children safe. We signposted the childminder to safe sleep guidance to inform their practice. Since the inspection, the childminder has confirmed that a sleep policy has been developed and shared with families.

### Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children were enabled to lead their own play through a balance of planned and spontaneous experiences. Opportunities for play and learning were enhanced through connections with their community. Outings to local parks and green spaces supported them to experience daily active, outdoor play opportunities to explore, investigate and learn about nature. They were encouraged to learn about the world around them and develop an understanding of how to care for the environment. For example, they were involved in looking after chickens. These experiences had a positive impact on children's wellbeing and development. Families commented positively on the outdoor experiences. Their comments included, "No matter the weather, Helene will take the children out" and "They are provided with lots of opportunities to be part of the community and to follow their interests".

Children's play and learning experiences were fun and exciting. The experiences, toys and resources reflected their interests. For example, children were interested in farms and were involved in caring for a lamb. Children were very well supported to develop their skills in language, literacy, and numeracy. Opportunities for learning were naturally woven into daily experiences for example, during baking. The childminder was consistently down at children's level and used appropriate language to support children's communication development. As a result, children were happy, confident and progressing well.

The childminder was knowledgeable about each child's stage of development and identified realistic and personal targets to support them to grow and develop. Children's progress was well recorded which demonstrated their achievements and successes.

## 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 key question as very good.

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

Children experienced care in a warm and welcoming environment. They had plenty of space to play, rest and relax in the playroom with sofas and soft furnishings creating a homely and comfortable environment. Children enjoyed tabletop activities, baking and eating meals in the kitchen. The playroom was well designed with a range of developmentally appropriate resources which were easily accessible. This promoted children's choice and independence in play.

Children had fun outdoors and enjoyed opportunities for active, energetic play in the garden. This enabled them to develop gross motor skills. They had opportunities to explore nature and took an interest in the plants and flowers around the garden. This promoted curiosity and wonder. The childminder had identified that their next improvement priority would be to further develop the outdoor toys and resources to enhance children's play and learning experiences.

Children were kept safe and protected as the service was well maintained and clean. The childminder had reflected on 'Keeping children safe' practice notes and implemented actions to minimise risks to children. Children had opportunities to care for pet rabbits and chickens. The childminder had clear guidance in place for keeping children safe around the rabbits. The childminder was confident with measures in place to minimise risks around the chickens, for example, robust handwashing. We suggested developing a risk assessment to share with families. The childminder agreed to action this.

## 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 key question as very good.

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

The vision, values and aims had recently been reviewed and reflected the service with a focus on valuing outdoor play and spending time in nature. The childminder had created a positive ethos promoting the benefits of children exploring a natural play and learning environment.

Children and families' views were actively sought to influence change within the setting. They had opportunities to share feedback, for example through questionnaires. These opportunities meant families had their views heard and helped them to feel included in the development of the service. Families told us, "Helene is very open and welcoming" and "Very good at communicating with us formally and informally".

Effective quality assurance processes, including self-evaluation were in place which supported continuous improvement. Improvement priorities had been identified which were tailored towards the needs of children and families. As a result, a culture of continuous improvement brought about positive change.

## 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 key question as very good.

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

Children experienced compassionate and responsive care with kind, caring and nurturing interactions which supported positive attachments. This helped children to feel happy, relaxed and loved. The childminder understood children's individual needs, which had a positive impact on their wellbeing, development and learning. Families felt they had a strong connection with the childminder. They told us, "My child loves going there and looks forward to it" and "Overall, our child is very happy and settled".

Children benefitted from a childminder who was committed and motivated to learn. They had undertaken a wide variety of professional development opportunities and reflected on their learning. For example, they had reflected on how to implement numeracy into everyday experiences and enable children to experience deep engagement in play. The childminder supported and facilitated children's play experiences through fun interactions. As a result, children experienced high quality play and learning.

## 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?	4 - Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	4 - 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

## To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

## Contact us

Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

## Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iarrrtas.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.