

# Easton, Elise Child Minding

Dunfermline

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
26 November 2024

**Service provided by:**

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003904697

**Service no:**  
CS2003007780

## About the service

Elise Easton provides a childminding service from their property in a residential area of Dunfermline. 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 a small playroom at the front of the property, the living room, dining room and have access to the upstairs bathroom.

## About the inspection

Following the last inspection on 23 October 2024, we carried out two visits to support improvement and monitor progress. A follow up inspection took place on Tuesday 26 November 2024 between 15:45 and 18:40 to assess the actions taken by the provider to meet the outstanding requirements and areas for improvement. The inspection was carried out by two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate.

## Key messages

- Children experienced improved outcomes as the childminder had made significant progress towards meeting requirements and areas for improvement.
- The childminder had a growing understanding of the legal responsibilities of operating a childminding service.
- Improvements had been made to the recording of children's information and personal plans. The childminder should now begin to use this information to support children's care, play and learning experiences.
- Children had sufficient space to play, rest and relax. They were cared for in an environment which was suitable to meet their needs.
- Play and learning experiences were developmentally appropriate. Risk assessments were in the early stages of being developed to support children's safety.
- Children were safe as the childminder had sufficient knowledge to protect them from harm.

## 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?	1 - Unsatisfactory
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Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

## How good is our care, play and learning?

## 1 - Unsatisfactory

A requirement was previously made about personal plans. Progress had been made to develop these for each child. Children would benefit from the childminder now using the information provided in personal plans to support them to meet their needs, rights and choices (**see area for improvement 1**).

A requirement was previously made around providing children with safe and appropriate play and learning experiences. Children experienced a range of activities which were developmentally appropriate. The childminder was in the early stages of risk assessing experiences to support children's safety and wellbeing (**see area for improvement 2**).

Further detail about the progress made can be found in 'What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection' and 'What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection'.

### Areas for improvement

1. To meet children's needs, rights and choices, the provider should ensure children's personal plans are used to support their daily experiences. This should include, but is not limited to, reviewing personal plans at least once in every six-month period in partnership with children and families.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15) and 'I am supported and cared for sensitively by people who anticipate issues and are aware of and plan for any known vulnerability or frailty' (HSCS 3.18).

This is to ensure staff skills and knowledge is consistent with the Care Inspectorate document, 'Guide for providers on personal planning: Early learning and childcare'.

2. To support children's safety and wellbeing needs, the provider should develop and implement risk assessments that identify hazards and measures in place to minimise risks.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'My environment is secure and safe' (HSCS 5.17) and 'My care and support is provided in a planned and safe way, including if there is an emergency or unexpected event' (HSCS 4.14).

## What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

### Requirements

#### Requirement 1

By 3 November 2024, the provider must meet children's health, safety and welfare needs by recording registration information for all children attending the setting. To do this, the provider must, at a minimum, ensure each child's registration information includes:

- a) the child's name, address and date of birth
- b) the date they started using the service
- c) details of next of kin
- d) the name and address of their General Practitioner
- a) information about children's medical needs, including any allergies and/or dietary requirements.

This is to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) (Welfare of users) and Regulation 5 (Personal plans) of the Social Care and Social Work and Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulation 2011 (SSI 2011/2010).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15) and 'My care and support meets my needs and is right for me' (HSCS 1.19).

This is to ensure staff skills and knowledge is consistent with the Care Inspectorate document, 'Records childminding services must keep and guidance on notification reporting'.

**This requirement was made on 23 October 2024.**

#### Action taken on previous requirement

All children attending the service had up to date registration information recorded. This supported the childminder to keep children safe and meet their health and welfare needs.

**This requirement has been met.**

**Met - within timescales**

#### Requirement 2

By 25 November 2024, the provider must meet children's health, safety and welfare needs by recording and implementing personal plans for all children registered in the service. To do this, the provider must, at a minimum:

- a) create personal plans within 28 days of children starting the service
- b) ensure personal plans set out children's current needs, rights and choices and how they will be met
- c) understand the information within the personal plans, and use this to effectively meet each child's needs
- d) review personal plans at least once in every six-month period in partnership with children and families
- e) record information accurately.

This is to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) (Welfare of users) and Regulation 5 (Personal plans) of the Social Care and Social Work and Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulation 2011 (SSI 2011/2010).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15) and 'I am supported and cared for sensitively by people who anticipate issues and are aware of and plan for any known vulnerability or frailty' (HSCS 3.18).

This is to ensure staff skills and knowledge is consistent with the Care Inspectorate document, 'Guide for providers on personal planning: Early learning and childcare'.

**This requirement was made on 23 October 2024.**

### Action taken on previous requirement

Progress had been made to ensure all children had personal plans in place which set out their current needs, rights and choices. The information was accurately recorded. The childminder was in the early stages of using this information to support children's care, play and learning experiences. An area for improvement has been made to support the childminder to improve outcomes for children.

**This requirement has been met.**

**Met - within timescales**

## Requirement 3

By 25 November 2024, the provider must ensure children experience safe and appropriate play and learning experiences. To do this, the provider must, at a minimum:

- a) ensure children experience safe, developmentally appropriate play and learning in line with their needs, rights and choices
- b) risk assess play and learning experiences to ensure children are safe and protected from harm
- c) make appropriate plans for any trips and outings to ensure that relevant information and resources are available to keep children safe and protected from harm
- d) make appropriate plans for keeping children safe and protected from harm in the event of an emergency.

This is to comply with Regulation 3 (Principles) and 4(1)(a) (Welfare of users) of the Social Care and Social Work and Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulation 2011 (SSI 2011/2010).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I chose, and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity' (HSCS 2.27).

This requirement was made on 23 October 2024.

#### Action taken on previous requirement

Children experienced play and learning experiences which were safe and developmentally appropriate. For example, they visited a green space where they built dens and looked for wildlife. This provided them with opportunities to play collaboratively and learn about the world around them. A risk assessment had been created for this outing, identifying possible hazards and ways to minimise risks. This helped the childminder to reflect on how to keep children safe. The childminder had not yet developed risk assessments for other outings or experiences. An area for improvement has been made to support the childminder to improve outcomes for children.

The childminder planned outings in advance and had appropriate measures in place to keep children safe and protected. For example, the childminder had a first aid kit and important contact information for children in the event of an emergency.

This requirement has been met.

#### Met - within timescales

### Requirement 4

By 3 November 2024, the provider must ensure that effective infection prevention and control practices are in place to support children's health and wellbeing. To do this, the provider must, at a minimum, ensure:

- a) effective handwashing routines are implemented and established for all children
- b) personal protective equipment is used effectively during nappy changing
- c) dummies are stored hygienically and cleaned when required
- d) all equipment used for childminding purposes is safe and well-maintained.

This is to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) and (d) (Welfare of users) of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice' (HSCS 4.11).

This requirement was made on 23 October 2024.

#### Action taken on previous requirement

The childminder had completed infection, prevention and control training and had implemented measures to keep children safe.

- a) Children were well supported by the childminder to wash their hands at appropriate times.
- b) The childminder had appropriate personal protective equipment available for nappy changing.
- c) Dummies were stored in individual boxes which kept them clean when not being used.
- d) Equipment was safe and well maintained. For example, the childminder had purchased a new buggy and stored this appropriately to keep it clean.

As a result, children experienced improved infection prevention and control practices which helped to keep them healthy.

**This requirement has been met.**

**Met - within timescales**

## Requirement 5

By 3 November 2024, the provider must ensure that the premises are fit for purpose and offer children a safe environment that meets the aims and objectives for childminding purposes. To do this, the provider must, at a minimum:

- a) ensure any inappropriate items are removed from the setting that may compromise children's wellbeing
- b) ensure areas accessed by children are safe and appropriate for children's care, play and learning experiences.

This is to comply with Regulation 10(2)(a) and (d) (Fitness of premises) of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'My environment is secure and safe' (HSCS 5.17).

**This requirement was made on 23 October 2024.**

### Action taken on previous requirement

Children experienced an environment which was safe and suitable for childminding. The areas children used within the home were clean and fit for purpose. Inappropriate items identified at the last inspection had been removed. As a result, children experienced an environment which was appropriate to meet their care, play and learning needs.

**This requirement has been met.**

**Met - within timescales**

## Requirement 6

By 25 November 2024, the childminder must become familiar with the regulations and responsibilities of operating a childminding service. To do this, the provider must, at a minimum:

- a) become familiar with the Scottish Statutory Instruments SSI 210
- b) become familiar with 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare settings'
- c) know what records childminding services must keep and when notifications need to be made in line with guidance.

This is in order to comply with Regulation 7 (2)(c) (Fitness of managers) 2(c) of the Social Care and Social Work and Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulation 2011 (SSI 2011/2010).



This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes' (HSCS 3.14) and 'I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed' (HSCS 4.23).

This is to ensure staff skills and knowledge is consistent with the Care Inspectorate document, 'Records childminding services must keep and notification reporting guidance'.

**This requirement was made on 23 October 2024.**

#### Action taken on previous requirement

The childminder was in the very early stages of becoming familiar with the regulations of operating a childminding service. For example, they had made progress towards meeting the requirements and areas for improvement identified at the last inspection. However, they were not yet familiar with the documents relating to their responsibilities including the Scottish Statutory Instruments, 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare settings' and notification guidance. This meant they were not fully aware of their responsibilities as a provider of a care service to fully protect and support children's health, safety and wellbeing.

**This requirement has not been met and we have agreed an extension until 17 February 2025.**

**Not met**

### Requirement 7

By 25 November 2024, the provider must keep accurate records of children's attendance to ensure children's health, safety and wellbeing needs are protected by following the service conditions of registration.

This is to comply with Regulation 6 (2)(a) (Fitness of Providers) of the Social Care and Social Work and Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulation 2011 (SSI 2011/2010).

**This requirement was made on 23 October 2024.**

#### Action taken on previous requirement

The childminder kept an accurate record of children's attendance each day which demonstrated the childminder operated within their conditions of registration. This supported children to be safe and meet their wellbeing needs.

**This requirement has been met.**

**Met - within timescales**

### Requirement 8

By 11 November 2024, the provider must ensure that children are safeguarded and protected from harm. To do this, the provider must, at a minimum demonstrate a satisfactory understanding of child protection and safeguarding practices.

This is in order to comply with the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulation 2011 (SSI 2011/210) 4(1)(a) Requirements to make proper provision for the health and welfare of service users.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'I am protected from harm, neglect, abuse, bullying and exploitation by people who have a clear understanding of their responsibilities' (HSCS 3.20).

This is to ensure staff skills and knowledge is consistent with 'National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 – updated 2023'.

**This requirement was made on 23 October 2024.**

### Action taken on previous requirement

The childminder had completed child protection training and demonstrated sufficient knowledge and understanding to keep children safe. For example, the childminder was now aware of when to contact other professionals. As a result, children were protected from harm.

**This requirement has been met.**

**Met - within timescales**

## What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

### Areas for improvement

#### Previous area for improvement 1

To support children to have safe and comfortable sleep, the childminder should improve the children's sleeping environment. This should include, but is not limited to, providing suitable equipment for children to have high quality, safe sleep.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice' (HSCS 4.11).

This is to ensure staff skills and knowledge is consistent with the Scottish Cot Death Trust document, 'Early Years Safe Sleeping Guide.'

**This area for improvement was made on 23 October 2024.**

### Action taken since then

Children were supported to sleep safely and comfortably. The childminder had a travel cot available. Children were provided a quiet space in the playroom to help them have high quality sleep.

**This area for improvement has been met.**

### Previous area for improvement 2

To support children's health and wellbeing, the childminder should offer children a positive, social mealtime experience. This should include, but is not limited to, providing meals and snacks that are nutritious and balanced to meet children's dietary needs.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'I can choose suitably presented and healthy meals and snacks, including fresh fruit and vegetables, and participate in menu planning' (HSCS 1.33) and 'My meals and snacks meet my cultural and dietary needs, beliefs, and preferences' (HSCS 1.37).

This is to ensure staff skills and knowledge is consistent with the Scottish Government document, 'Setting the Table: Nutritional Standards and Practical Guidance for Early Learning and Childcare Providers in Scotland'.

**This area for improvement was made on 23 October 2024.**

#### Action taken since then

Some progress had been made to improve the quality of children's mealtimes. For example, the childminder sat and chatted with children at times and offered some encouragement. Children had limited space to eat at the table. We discussed how the childminder could review the mealtime experience to create a more pleasant and relaxing atmosphere.

Children had some healthy options such as vegetables included in their mealtime. However, some children had processed food which was not nutritious. We reminded the childminder about relevant nutritional guidance to support their practice.

**This area for improvement has not been met and remains in place.**

### Previous area for improvement 3

To ensure children experience an environment which meets their rights, needs, and choices, the childminder should ensure children have sufficient space to play, rest and relax.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'I have enough physical space to meet my needs and wishes' (HSCS 5.20).

**This area for improvement was made on 23 October 2024.**

#### Action taken since then

Children had sufficient space to play, rest and relax. They used more spaces within the childminder's home. For example, older children had the opportunity to relax in the living room and eat their meals in the dining room. This supported improved experiences for all children.

**This area for improvement has been met.**

## 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?	1 - Unsatisfactory
1.1 Nurturing care and support	1 - Unsatisfactory
1.3 Play and learning	1 - Unsatisfactory

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