

# Fiona Martin Childminding Child Minding

Glenrothes

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
31 January 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Fiona Martin

**Service provider number:**  
SP2023000257

**Service no:**  
CS2023000387

## About the service

Fiona Martin Childminding operates a childminding service from their family home in Glenrothes, Fife. They are registered to provide care to a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age. Of whom, no more than six are 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 the childminder's family.

Children have access to a designated playroom, dining space, kitchen, enclosed front garden and toilet facilities. The service is close to schools and nurseries, green spaces, local amenities and can be reached by public transport links.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Thursday 30 January 2025 between 09:30 and 11:30. Feedback was shared after the inspection. 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, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with children using the service and observed their play
- received feedback from two families through an online link
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- Children were happy, settled and having fun as they explored play spaces.
- Children benefitted from the childminders nurturing and caring manner that supported their wellbeing.
- Play spaces had been carefully considered to engage children's interests and promote curiosity and imagination.
- The childminder knew what was important to each child, their likes and preferences.
- Children benefitted from a designated play room that was well resources with high quality materials.
- The service should ensure they have the relevant medication in the setting to meet children's healthcare needs when required.
- The service should ensure practice reflects their policy on safer sleep guidance.

## 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?	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
How good is our staff team?	4 - 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 benefitted from the childminders nurturing, kind and caring manner that supported trusting attachments to be made. The childminder reassured children who were upset and offered cuddles. This supported their emotional wellbeing.

Mealtimes were relaxed and sociable. Younger children sat in highchairs at the table that ensured their safety. They were offered healthy snack choices and fresh drinking water that promoted hydration. The childminder sat with children at the table, using the opportunity to talk with them, making this routine an enjoyable experience that promoted language development through conversation.

Personal plans were in place for children and were reviewed in line with guidance. We encouraged the childminder to update important information on the documents that record health and medical information. This would ensure that what matters to children was current and reflective of their needs.

The management of medication should be further developed to reflect guidance. The childminder should ensure that if medication has been recorded in a child's plan, then this should be available when the child attends the setting. This is to ensure that health care needs can be fully met (See area for improvement 1.)

Children were able to relax in cosy spaces in the designated playroom. When they needed to sleep, routines did not reflect best practice guidance or the service policy. The childminder should ensure that practice reflects safer sleep guidance and their policy to promote children's wellbeing (See area for improvement 2.)

Children's safety was promoted as the childminder had clear procedures to follow should they have concerns for children's wellbeing. They had completed child protection training and had a sound knowledge of their role and responsibilities.

### Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children were able to follow their interests from a varied selection of play opportunities. The childminder had organised the play space to ensure children benefitted from experiences that promoted role play, creativity, imagination and exploration. The childminder demonstrated their knowledge about how children develop and learn at different stages and offered resources to support. As a result, children made progress at a pace that was right for them.

Planning for children's experiences was a balance of organised activities and led by children's interests. The childminder promoted the use of the community daily with walks in green spaces and visits to the local park. Families told us their child "loves all the adventures they go on." This ensured children benefitted from fresh air and exercise each day.

Children experienced nurturing interactions that supported their play.

The childminder was attuned to children's interests, engaged in activities led by children, sat with them, promoting imaginative play and engagement. For example, children had enjoyed using the kitchen, the childminder offered a selection of loose parts that children used to represent foods. This meant they engaged in play for periods of time.

Children were supported to develop an interest in literacy and numeracy through activities. Print and numbers were displayed around the playroom. Books and resources were arranged to promote children to access these independently. Children enjoyed looking at books, mark making and singing.

The childminder shared observations of children's play and experiences with families through an online app. This evidenced what they had enjoyed. Families told us they would like updates on the app to be daily. We shared this with the childminder who agreed to review this with families.

To ensure children made progress through the experiences offered, the childminder used milestones trackers. This evidenced the progress children made and identified next steps.

### Areas for improvement

1. To ensure children's health care needs can be fully met, the childminder should ensure they have access to children's medication should this be required as stated in care plans.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards 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 care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that "My care and support meets my needs and is right for me." (1.19)

2. To promote children's safety and wellbeing as they sleep, the childminder should ensure sleep routines reflect best practice guidance and the service policy.

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

### How good is our setting?

**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 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities

Children benefitted from natural light and ventilation in the service. The childminder had created a designated play space that offered a variety of resources that were developmentally appropriate. Spaces were inviting, comfortable, well maintained and had been carefully planned to ensure children could make independent choices safely. Families commented "we know our child is in a safe and nurturing environment." As a result, families had confidence in the childminder.

Children had access to a designated playroom, front garden, dining space and kitchen area. Spaces were safe and secure as the childminder carried out daily visual checks. We encouraged them to record their actions when they identify potential risks.

Resources were high quality and a mix of natural, open ended materials and toys. The childminder valued the learning opportunities of loose parts play and how these stimulated children's interests and imagination. We encouraged them to consider ways that large loose parts could be offered in the outdoor area to support risk benefit play. This would offer children more challenge.

Infection, prevention and control measures were followed as areas that children accessed were clean, tidy and well organised. Children were supported to wash their hands before meals. We encouraged the childminder to promote effective hand hygiene routines at other times of the day, such as when entering the setting after outdoor play. This would ensure that any risk of cross contamination was minimised, and support children to learn about the importance of hand washing for their health and wellbeing.

## 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

Children experienced a setting that was reflective of the aims and vision. The childminder promoted a safe, secure and homely environment where children were supported to enjoy a wide variety of experiences through fun and engaging activities. This meant that children were settled, happy and having fun with friends and the childminder.

The childminder had considered ways to gather the views of children and families. They used questionnaires and families told us they are regularly asked to give feedback on aspects of the service. We suggested ways to gather the views of all stakeholders to support the childminders process of self-evaluation for improvement. Using best practice guidance to evaluate their service will support the childminder to evaluate what is working well and identify areas for improvement and inform their development plan.

The childminder had some quality assurance systems in place such as regular reviews of children's plans and risk assessments. The review of medication should form part of this process. We suggested they included this in their quality assurance calendar in line with guidance.

## How good is our staff team?

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 4.1: Staff skills, knowledge & values

Children and families experienced warmth and kindness from the childminder who was responsive to their needs and wishes. Families described the childminder as very approachable, easy to talk to and commented "We couldn't think of anyone better to look after our girl" and "we have a strong and trusting relationship with our childminder."

As a result, positive partnership working had been developed between families and the childminder to ensure children's needs were met.

Children were happy and confident to explore that showed they felt safe and secure. Some children had been in the service for some time, and this promoted a sense of belonging and a confidence to move around spaces.

There was a welcoming atmosphere that promoted a warm and inclusive ethos that valued the importance of children learning through play. The childminder was skilled at supporting children to develop through play as they had experience of working in early years. They used their skills and knowledge to support children to thrive and flourish.

The childminder had completed some additional training in child protection and safeguarding and safe management of foods. They had plans for further training to promote a deeper understanding of individual needs. This demonstrated their commitment to support children and families. As a result, children were supported to reach their full potential.

The childminder had positive support networks with other professionals in the local area. This provided opportunities for regular discussions and reflections. As a result, children and families benefitted from the childminders reflective practice.

## 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	4 - Good

How good is our setting?	4 - Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	4 - 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?	4 - Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	4 - 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 iartras.

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.