

# Lesley Wallace Childminding Child Minding

Dunfermline

**Type of inspection:**  
Announced (short notice)

**Completed on:**  
28 March 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Lesley Wallace

**Service provider number:**  
SP2018990137

**Service no:**  
CS2018369812

## About the service

Lesley Wallace, trading as Lesley Wallace Childminder, provides a childminding service in the village of Wellwood in Dunfermline. The childminder may care for a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than three may be of an age not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one may be less than 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the children of the childminder's family.

The service is in a residential area, close to local amenities including green spaces and local nurseries and schools. The service is delivered from the childminder's home with children accessing the lounge, kitchen/dining space and toilet. The enclosed garden and the local community were used well, to provide children with a range of experiences.

## About the inspection

This was a short announced inspection that was undertaken on 27 February 2025 from 09:15 to 12:30. Feedback was given to the service on Friday 28 February 2025. 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, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

This inspection was part of a pilot to test the 'Quality improvement framework for early learning and childcare sectors' developed jointly with Education Scotland. Because this inspection was part of a pilot, no new evaluations (grades) have been awarded.

## Key messages

The spaces used by the childminder reflected children's interests and included a variety of resources, opportunities and experiences indoors, outdoors and in the local community.

The childminder knew children well and understood their individual personality and unique ways of communicating their needs.

Children's emotional wellbeing was supported by the childminder who used a calm, warm and nurturing approach.

The responsible childminder safeguarded, protected and supported children's wellbeing.

## Children thrive and develop in quality spaces

### Quality indicator: Children experience high quality spaces

Children were cared for in a warm, welcoming and homely environment that was maintained to a very high standard. They were confident as they moved around the areas of the home choosing toys and resources that interested them. Cosy spaces allowed them to rest and relax as needed.

Children felt a sense of belonging in the childminders home and had opportunities to achieve and develop a variety of skills. The physical environment supported children to feel safe, secure and loved, while they experienced play and learning centred on their needs and interests. A parent said, "Feels safe. Lots of fun. Sociable.

The childminder recognised the importance of supporting children to enjoy daily outdoor play experiences and spending time in the local community. Children visited the orchard, went to local parks and attended book bug sessions in the local library. They were able to explore and learn about the world around them and to socialise with other children. This had a positive impact on children's health, wellbeing and happiness. A child told us that they liked to play in the garden.

The childminder was alert to potential risks in their setting, outdoors and in the local community. This safeguarded, protected and supported children's wellbeing and safety. The childminder identified and minimised potential risks through using a benefit/risk approach. Children were guided and supported to stay safe, through discussion and opportunities to take on new challenges. The use of Care Inspectorates keeping children safe - look, think, act campaign, had supported children to learn about staying safe. A child told us about sitting in their car seat to stay safe when in the childminders car.

Infection, prevention and control measures were implemented to a high level. These included, cleaning and hand washing routines that were effective. The childminder sensitively reminded and supported children to wash their hands at key times throughout the day. Personal care was managed well and ensured children's privacy and dignity was fully respected. Food handling practices and mealtime routines were safe. When preparing hot food, it was probed to ensure it was heated to the correct temperature. Choking hazards were understood and minimised through the childminder sitting at the table, with children whilst they ate. Children were supported to stay safe and healthy.

Children and family's personal information was securely stored. This showed the childminder understood their responsibilities regarding storing and processing children's personal information. This meant that information shared with the childminder remained confidential.

## Children are supported to achieve

### Quality indicator: Children are supported to achieve. Nurturing Care and Support

Children were shown respect and benefitted from nurturing relationships. This helped them to develop a positive view of themselves and to form trusting and secure relationships with the childminder. Children were confident in seeking comfort or help from the childminder. They felt valued, loved and secure as a result. A child showed us how they had learned to tie a knot with a lace. They were extremely proud of this achievement.

The childminder was aware of the importance of supportive transitions and routines for individual children. Procedures for settling children into the service were flexible, to support children's emotional wellbeing. Chatting with children to prepare them for routine experiences including nappy changes and mealtimes minimised disruption to their care and support.

Children benefitted from unhurried, sociable and safe mealtimes. Children were confident following the mealtime routine. They washed their hands sat at the table with the childminder and enjoyed healthy choices of vegetables and fruit for snack and pasta for lunch. Mealtime experiences promoted children's involvement and independence.

Children's care and support was agreed in consultation with families. Their overall health and wellbeing was supported by consistent care that met their individual needs. Personal plans were developed and reviewed regularly. Children's routines, care strategies, progress and possible next steps were detailed to ensure they received the right care at the right times.

The childminder worked closely with families to ensure that, when needed, medication was administered effectively. Records confirmed that by implementing current best practice guidance, children were safe and healthy.

The childminder was committed to meeting the needs of children and families. They had created a happy and welcoming ethos promoting a positive atmosphere for children to play and learn. Families were encouraged to spend time in the service chatting with the childminder about their children's experiences. A parent said, "I am lucky as I'm on maternity leave so I can stop and have a cuppa with Lesley which is great". Trusting relationships and effective communication had supported children and families to feel valued and included in the service. A parent said, "They are a great support, very helpful, kind and caring".

The childminder recognised the importance of connecting with families and including them in the development of the service. Children and families were encouraged to provide their views at key points showing they were valued and listened to. They were able to comment on menus for example. Meaningful communication provided opportunities for sharing ideas and making suggestions of improvement. A parent said, "Lesley is very approachable. Asks for feedback and constructive criticism".

### Quality indicator: Children are supported to achieve. Safeguarding and child protection

The childminder had clear up to date policies and procedures in place to ensure children were safe and protected. They included a child protection policy that was shared with families using the service. The childminder recently had refresher child protection training through her memberships with Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA), and had reflected on their practice in safeguarding children when they had read child protection case studies.

They aimed to complete the next level of training to increase their knowledge, awareness and confidence in identifying and responding to child protection concerns or safeguarding issues. A parent said, "Lesley is a great childminder who cares about my child's welfare and development".

The childminder had kept the required records including accident and incident records, medication records, and risk assessments. This supported them to meet the legislative and regulatory requirements of operating a registered childminding service, and to keep children safe.

## 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).

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