

# Angela McKinlay - Childminder Child Minding

Livingston

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
30 April 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Angela McKinlay

**Service provider number:**  
SP2012983429

**Service no:**  
CS2012307626

## About the service

Angela McKinlay provides a childminding service from their family home in Livingston, West Lothian. Children can use the ground floor of the home which includes the livingroom/dining space, kitchen toilet and direct access to an enclosed garden.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children under the age of 16, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and no more than one shall be under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family.

From 1 April 2025 to 24 June 2025 (or before if a child leaves the service) the childminder may care for a maximum of seven children on a Tuesday from 8:00 to 15:00 at any one time (as identified in the variation request dated 25 March 2025) up to 16 years of age.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Friday 25 April 2025 between 12:15 and 14:15. 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 the previous inspection report, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- Observed and spoke with two children using the service
- Sent out a family questionnaire and received six responses
- Spoke with the childminder
- Observed practice and daily life
- Reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- Children experienced warm, nurturing and respectful interactions.
- Positive relationships with families supported effective communication and information sharing to ensure continuity of care.
- Daily experiences were well planned to support children's individual interests, play and learning.
- Opportunities for play and learning were enhanced through positive connections with the local and wider community.
- Quality assurance and continuous improvement contributed to the provision of high quality care and children's ongoing learning and development.

## 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 key question as very good.

### Quality indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support

Children were happy and relaxed in the care of the childminder. Their needs were met through warm and nurturing interactions. This supported them to feel safe and secure. The childminder had a friendly and open approach which supported the development of trusting relationships. Conversations when children were dropped off or collected meant there were opportunities for informal chats about each child's day. This meant families were included in children's experiences and care.

Parents were all very positive in their feedback and all strongly agreed with the statement, "Overall, I am happy with the care and support my child receives in this service." Parents told us, "We are very lucky to have found a childminder we trust, care for our children so well, and our children love going" and, "It's like a second home and they love going."

The childminder worked closely with parents to ensure their routines and preferences were consistent with home. Information gathered informed personal plans and included children's interests, medical and dietary requirements. Six monthly reviews were carried out to ensure the children's care and support was right for them. This meant that families had trust and confidence in the care and support the childminder offered. Children's overall wellbeing was supported through the childminder's knowledge and understanding of their needs. The childminder spoke confidently about individual children's needs and strategies they used to support them. For example, creating a safe environment and cruising area to support a child in the early stages of walking, and supporting language development through daily routines, stories and songs.

Effective medication systems and procedures were in place to keep children safe. Whilst children did not currently need medication administered, the childminder had procedures in place which were in line with best practice guidance 'Management of Medication in Day care and Childminding Services. This meant that should children require medication, the childminder was well placed to administer medication safely.

The childminder recognised the importance of rest and sleep for children's overall wellbeing and followed routines from home. Travel cots and sleep mats were provided for younger children to rest and sleep. The childminder was aware of safe sleeping guidance and told us children were supervised while sleeping and lots of physical comfort was offered when waking. This promoted good habits and supported children's emotional security and wellbeing.

The childminder had a very good knowledge and understanding of their role and responsibilities in safeguarding and protecting children. They had completed child protection training and were confident in appropriate action to take if concerns for the welfare or wellbeing of children should arise. This meant that children's safety and wellbeing was well supported.

Mealtimes were an unhurried and relaxed experience for children and supported opportunities for social interactions between children and the childminder. Families provided packed lunches for their children which were stored safely to ensure food was kept fresh. The childminder provided a range of healthy

options for snack, which included fruit, and water was readily accessible, so children were hydrated throughout the day. The childminder understood the importance of supervising mealtimes to ensure children were safe whilst eating.

### Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children were happy and enjoying a variety of opportunities which met their needs, interests, and curiosities. They were leading their own play, exploring and being creative. This meant that play was meaningful. Parents told us, "There is always fun and seasonal activities including crafts for the kids to partake in" and, "Different activities that help build and improve their motor skills etc sensory play."

The childminder knew the children well and ensured there was a balance of resources to meet their needs. They provided children with challenge to help support their interest. Children were able to access a variety of books and mark making activities, and the use of songs and rhymes promoted early communication and language skills.

Children's observations demonstrated the childminder had a very good understanding of child development and individual children's progress. Families were informed of progress through daily updates and more formally through individualised progress reports. Children's successes and achievements were recognised and celebrated with families during the day through secure social media platforms. One parent shared the childminder is, "very good at being child led, allowing the children's interests to become reality."

Opportunities for play and learning were enhanced through strong connections with the local and wider community. Visits to local parks, Bookbug sessions at the local library and nature walks enabled children to explore different experiences. This contributed to children having opportunities to be active and lead a healthy lifestyle. Local playgroups provided further learning opportunities and supported children to make social connections and feel included within their community.

## 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

The childminder had created a warm and welcoming environment for children. They were kept safe as the service was well maintained and clean. Children had comfortable places to play, relax and sleep, for example the living room, dining area and enclosed rear garden. One parent told us, "After school they have the time to rest on the sofa with a blanket, or just have a 5 minute cuddle to decompress." As a result, children were settled and were given the message that they mattered.

Children's health and wellbeing was promoted through good infection prevention and control measures to ensure a safe and hygienic environment. Children were encouraged to develop self-care skills and follow good hand washing procedures. During personal care routines, the childminder used appropriate personal protective clothing to further prevent the spread of infection. We observed good cleaning practices and toys were well maintained. This meant that children were cared for in a pleasant and clean environment.

Toys and resources were easily accessible which promoted choice and were based on children's interests. This stimulated, engaged, and challenged children in their play. For example, construction toys, dinosaurs,

cars, home corner, and art and craft materials. Natural and open-ended play materials provided opportunities to extend children's learning and develop problem-solving skills. The childminder should continue to extend open ended resources to further develop curiosity and challenge children's thinking in the indoor and outdoor environment.

The garden offered a range of physical and sensory activities to encourage and develop children's skills. For example, a mud kitchen play tunnel, balls and trampoline. These opportunities benefitted overall wellbeing and supported them to develop gross motor skills. The childminder was continuing to develop the outdoor area and introduce more planting areas to enhance children's interests and experiences. Parents told us their children benefitted from daily access to the garden and one parent told us, "they love the garden and trampoline."

## 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

Clear policies and procedures were in place that supported the childminder to deliver a very good service. Policies were reviewed and updated regularly and reflected current legislation and best practice documents. Policies were shared with parents when starting at the service and when changes were applied. This contributed to them feeling included and well informed.

The; childminder gathered parents' views through feedback questionnaires and lots of informal chats. Trusting relationships and effective communication had supported children and families to feel valued and included in the service. All parents told us they strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, "My child and I are involved in a meaningful way to help develop the service." One parent told us, "Always good communication our childminder listens and acts on ideas and feedback from all of us."

The childminder demonstrated a strong commitment to providing and improving positive outcomes for children. The childminder was motivated about their role, and had developed an improvement plan with a focus on the outdoor play and experiences. We suggested ways to streamline the plan to support the childminder clearly track the success of desired improvements. This would identify gaps in children's experiences, to promote sustainable and continuous improvement of the service and would help influence and lead positive changes for children..

## 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 benefitted from the childminder's warm and responsive approach. This helped children to feel valued and included. Positive relationships had been built with families which supported strong relationships. Parents told us, "Angela is very attentive to all the children in her care, we thank our lucky stars that we found her."

Children experienced compassionate and responsive care which enabled them to feel happy and relaxed. The childminder understood children's individual needs, which had a positive impact on their wellbeing and development. They recognised the value of strong attachments and responded sensitively to children's cues offering comfort and reassurance.

The childminder drew on their personal experience and previous career in early education to support the provision of high-quality learning experiences. The childminder had attended a range of training which would support keep children safe. For example, child protection, first aid and infection prevention and control training. We saw that this had supported the childminder to provide care which promoted children's safety and wellbeing.

A variety of methods were used by the childminder to stay informed about changes in the sector. These included attendance at local childminding groups and updates from the Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA). This helped them to identify new best practice guidance documents and learning opportunities to support their development.

The childminder linked with other local childminders, which helped promote professional discussion of new guidance, challenges and practice sharing. This encouraged them to reflect on their service and supported them to further develop and enhance children's experiences.

## 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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