

Jolly Jungle Childminding Child Minding

Musselburgh

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
22 April 2025

Service provided by:
Sabena Al-Saadi

Service provider number:
SP2023000224

Service no:
CS2023000342

About the service

Jolly Jungle childminding is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, 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 children of the childminder's family. At the time of the inspection, four children were registered for a variety of attendance patterns. Two children were present during the inspection.

The childminding service is provided from the childminder's family home, which is a detached property in the village of Wallyford, East Lothian. The residential area is close to the village centre near shops, the local primary school, park and other amenities. Minded children had access to both upstairs and downstairs facilities. This included, a playroom, three rooms for sleeping, kitchen, toilets and a fully enclosed secure garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 22 April 2025 between the times of 12:30 and 14:30, we returned at 15:15 until 16:15. 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, previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the service.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with children using the service
- received five online questionnaires from parents and families
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

We provided feedback on the same day.

Key messages

- Children experienced warm, caring and respectful interactions from the childminder who knew them well.
- Indoor and outdoor play spaces were stimulating and developmentally appropriate, supporting childrens curiosity, play and learning.
- Children benefitted from access to a wide range of outdoor play experiences within the local community enhancing their overall wellbeing.
- Children were empowered to make independent choices and decisions, exploring resources that sparked their interests and engaged them in play.
- The childminder was experienced, knowledgeable and committed to training and professional 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 experienced warm, caring and nurturing approaches. They received cuddles and reassurance from a childminder who knew them well, this strengthened strong connections and trusting relationships. All families who responded to our questionnaire strongly agreed they had a good relationship with the childminder. One family commented, "[The childminder] is thorough and offers a nurturing, safe and inclusive environment for my child to thrive in". Another family told us, "Our childminder has developed a great relationship with our child and has also facilitated and supported the other children to develop peer to peer relationships which have now blossomed into friendships". This resulted in children being happy, confident and settled in the childminder's home.

Ongoing daily dialogue between the childminder and families contributed to continuity of care for children. Daily updates were provided to families about children's routines and experiences using digital platforms and through daily dialogue. Family feedback was positive about the childminder's communication, one family commented, "Great communication skills and obvious care towards our child's development and wellbeing". Another told us, "[Childminder] is always happy to discuss my child's care and ensures to make any necessary changes if needed". The childminder used information shared by families to support children's routines, for example, sleep and toilet training. As a result, children experienced consistent routines and continuity of care to meet their needs.

Effective personal planning and positive care supported children's overall wellbeing. Personal plans contained a range of documentation such as, registration information, 'All about me' profiles, and developmental monitoring records, which collectively contributed to meeting children's individual needs and families' wishes and choices. Consequently, children experienced consistent child-centred care that was right for them.

Children experienced calm, sociable and unhurried mealtimes. They were familiar with the routines and able to eat at their own pace. The childminder sat with children, encouraging positive eating habits and interactions, they provided individual support when needed. This ensured children were included and supported opportunities to develop language and key social skills. As a result, mealtimes provided positive, sociable and nurturing experiences for children. A variety of healthy and nutritious meals were provided, children brought their own drinking cups which were refilled when needed, this ensured children remained hydrated. The childminder had registered the food provision aspect of the business with the local authority to ensure that safe food handling, preparation and storage practices were followed.

The childminder had a good understanding of the health and dietary needs of the children in their care. For example, they provided dairy free meals and snacks where required. Families were happy with the meals and snacks their children received, one family commented, "My child receives a varied diet at Jolly Jungle with healthy snacks offered out with mealtimes". As a result, children's nutritional needs were met.

The childminder demonstrated their awareness of safe sleep practices. For example, children had ample space, their own mats and clean linen. Their sleeping was closely observed through the good use of video monitoring and a digital app which sent alerts to the childminder's phone. This contributed to ensuring children were supported to rest and sleep in a safe environment whilst meeting their needs. One family told us, "[Childminder] offers our child nap times during the day and has built a relationship with them where they can read my child's tiredness cues. This ensured my child is well rested and happy".

The childminder could review children's transitions into and out of the service. Families dropped off and collected children at the front door. While the childminder offered home visits during settling-in, we discussed the broader benefits of regularly inviting families into the childminding home. This could further support children's sense of belonging and strengthen relationships between families and the childminder.

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children were confident and happy to lead their own play and learning. The childminder was aware of children's individual stages of development and responsive to their communication cues. We observed several attuned interactions demonstrating the childminder's responsive approach. For example, when a child brought a soft toy bunny, the childminder suggested singing, "Sleeping Bunnies" which the child readily engaged in. Similarly, when a child picked up a book, the childminder offered to read and the child actively joined in. This child centred approach fostered key language and early literacy skills, driven by the children's interests. As a result of responsive interactions, children were deeply engaged in their play, fostering a sense of confidence and a strong motivation to enjoy themselves, learn and explore.

Planning was child centred and responsive to children's needs and interests. A balance of meaningful planned and spontaneous experiences was provided each day. One family told us, "My childminder takes the time to plan activities that focus on age-appropriate learning and experiences, I like the updates with pictures and videos". Planned activities incorporated cultural and seasonal events such as, a recent Easter celebration. Recent experiences included, an Easter egg hunt, creating hats and making Easter lollies. One family commented, "[The childminder] often rotates the provision to reflect the time of year, and any festivals and religious celebrations are also included. We feel this gives our child a broader outlook on other people's beliefs from a young age". Consequently, children experienced a wide range of opportunities supporting their learning and development.

Families benefitted from ongoing communication throughout the day about their child's needs. Children's experiences and achievements were shared with families via digital platforms. Family comments included, "We are kept up to date with experiences through excellent use of digital media". Another told us, "[The childminder] has fantastic communication with parents and offers regular updates throughout the day with photo evidence of our child's wellbeing and their daily activities. [The childminder] keeps us up to date with milestones that my child meets and gives us next steps to continue meeting these milestones". Effective communication ensured a consistent approach to children's overall health and wellbeing, with families regularly updated on their child's experiences.

Children's play and learning was enhanced through strong connections within their local and wider community, with a significant focus on outdoor experiences. Children benefitted from daily opportunities for physical activity and fresh air, frequently visiting parks, the beach and the forest. One family commented, "Every single session involves outdoor play and learning. My child has developed and benefitted greatly from this". Another's told us, "Our childminder is excellent at using the garden and local community, park trips, farm trips, national trust sites, book bugs, beach trips and creating fun outdoor activities. Come rain or shine [the childminder] ensures outdoor experiences are central to the children's experiences". As a result, children experienced a sense of wonder, curiosity, confidence and connection with nature, this contributed to their overall health and wellbeing.

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's home created a warm, spacious and inviting atmosphere. The playroom layout demonstrated thoughtful consideration of children's needs and wishes. For instance, a cosy space furnished with large cushions and soft toys, alongside a selection of books and a calming light-up bubble tube provided a comfortable space where children could rest and relax.

Both indoor and outdoor environments were reflective of children's developmental stages. Children had ample space to move around freely and space for them to engage in floor play unhindered. For example, within the playroom children were observed climbing, jumping and sliding using soft play equipment. Outdoors children had fun within a safe enclosed garden with high level fencing. They played on the swings, in the small house and at the water tray, painting and a mud kitchen was also available. Children were encouraged to be independent and chose the resources and toys they wished to play with. Consequently, children's choice was promoted and they had space to meet their developmental needs.

Indoors children benefitted from a wide variety of stimulating and developmentally appropriate resources and furniture that catered to their interests and enhanced their learning. These included items such as, cars, dolls, interactive toys and a well-equipped wooden kitchen and a small table with utensils, plates, pots and pans, to encourage children's imaginative role play. Toys and resources were easily accessible in low-level storage units with photos on the boxes. As a result, children were empowered to make independent choices and decisions, exploring resources that sparked their interests and engaged them in play. We suggested the childminder review the quantity of toys and resources displayed on top of the unit, the shelf appeared visually busy and potentially overstimulating.

Children experienced an environment that was clean, safe, secure and well maintained. One family commented, "The setting is wonderful and secure with child gates at the playroom, at the staircase and kitchen ensuring the children are kept in a safe space at all times". Another family told us, "[The childminder] offers a safe, nurturing and calm environment, my child is safe and looked after in their care". The childminder was confident about their responsibilities to keep children safe. A range of robust risk assessments for their home, garden and outings identified hazards and control measures needed to keep children safe. The childminder reviewed these regularly to ensure they remained up to date. This contributed to children's overall safety.

Effective infection prevention and control practices were consistently observed. Hand washing was integrated into children's daily routines, with children responding positively to encouragement. Tables and food preparation surfaces were clean and uncluttered. Children's personal care was carried out in a sensitive and caring manner. The childminder prepared children prior to nappy changing and included them throughout the process. They used gloves and aprons during nappy changes to minimise the risk in spread of infection. These practices created a safe and clean environment, helping to keep children healthy.

Appropriate arrangements were in place to record details of any accidents and incidents occurring and to pass this information on to families. The childminder was trained in first aid to ensure they had the skills and confidence to react to any accidents or health issues arising whilst children were in their care.

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 childminder had a clear vision for the service which positively informed their practice. A thoughtfully designed welcome pack which included the aims and objectives, was shared with families when registering. This allowed parents to know what to expect from the service and supported continuity of care for the children. One family told us, "[The childminder] ensures an open, inclusive and diverse experience for my child". Another family commented, "We genuinely believe that Jolly Jungle and [Childminder's] care has been the best thing, we could not imagine them anywhere else".

The childminder had developed strong relationships with families and valued their contribution to developing the service. Daily conversations alongside digital platforms provided opportunities for families to communicate and share their views. Families completed questionnaires following their child's settling in period. We encouraged the service to continue to gather the views of children and families throughout their time using the service, this would strengthen meaningful involvement and development of the service. Family feedback from our questionnaires was positive, their comments included, "[The childminder] has a calm and reassuring presence and always comes up with creative ways of solving any potential concern I may have" and "We are well informed of progress and developments. This could potentially be more interactive, however, there is plenty opportunity for us, parents to comment and communicate".

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

The childminder had developed positive and trusting relationships with children and families. Interactions observed were warm and nurturing, children were provided comfort and reassurance when needed. A parent told us, "[The childminder] always takes the time to understand the children's needs and is always thinking of creative ways to keep the children engaged, healthy and happy". Another family told us, "We love being a part of Jolly Jungle Childminding and feel very lucky to have found [childminder]". We could see the childminder knew the children and their families very well and was supportive of their needs and interests, enabling children to feel respected, valued, safe and secure.

Children's care, development and wellbeing benefitted from the childminder's engagement and commitment to continued professional learning. One family commented, "[Childminder] is an asset to the childminding community and a rarity to find one that comes from such a qualified background both academically and professionally". The childminder demonstrated a professional approach focused on positively impacting children's outcomes. Their strong understanding of child development and learning was evident in their purposeful engagement with professional development. This directly contributed to enhanced outcomes for children. This commitment to ongoing learning strengthened their ability to understand and meet each child's individual needs, resulting in the provision of high-quality care and support informed by current evidence and best practice.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at 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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