

Hannah Scott Child Minding

Musselburgh

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
14 May 2025

Service provided by:
Hannah Scott

Service provider number:
SP2023000090

Service no:
CS2023000136

About the service

Hannah Scott is a childminding service provided from the childminder's property, situated in Wallyford, East Lothian.

The service is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of six children aged under 16 years of age.

The service is situated in a residential area of Wallyford, East Lothian. The children use the dining area/ playroom, living room and from the kitchen there is access to an enclosed back garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 14 May 2025 between 12:30 and 14:30. We provided feedback throughout the inspection visit. One inspector carried out the inspection.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service.

This included registration and any complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke with children using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents

Key messages

- Personal plans should be reviewed with families at least every six months to ensure the childminder has the most current information to meet children's needs.
- Children enjoyed playing with a variety of age-appropriate play resources.
- Children were cared for in comfortable surroundings.
- The childminder should continue to review paperwork and keep up to date with best practice documents.
- The childminder had attended core training courses required for their role

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's overall wellbeing were supported by the warm interactions and nurturing care they received from the childminder. Two children were being minded at the time of inspection. One child enjoyed chatting with the childminder who responded appropriately, supporting the child to feel listened to and valued. This enabled a strong attachment to be formed.

Individualised care and support for children was in place because personal plan included registration information and contact details, which supported children's overall wellbeing. The childminder valued partnership working and had developed trusting and respectful relationships with parents. This ensured information based on the needs and choices of the children and their families was regularly shared. To further support children's progress and development, we asked the childminder to record some of the information shared on a verbal basis. They should ensure this information is reviewed with parents at least every six months, or sooner if there is a change in a child's circumstances or wellbeing. The Care Inspectorate 'Guide for providers on personal planning, Early learning and childcare (2021)' would support the childminder to ensure they continue to follow legislation and best practice guidance in relation to personal planning. A parent commented "we get asked every few months if there's anything different I want to change with my child's development plan and makes me aware of what the plan is in place".

Lunchtime was a pleasant and sociable experience for children. Families provided all meals and snacks and if children were still hungry, they were offered a variety of healthy options from the childminder. The childminder understood the importance of a balanced diet and supported children to develop positive eating habits. We have asked the childminder to include a healthy eating policy to ensure families were aware of providing healthy food. This approach ensured that children would remain healthy.

No children attending the service required regular medication, we reviewed existing procedures and paperwork. We discussed the safe administration of medication procedures to ensure that changing health needs of children could be met.

The childminder was aware of her responsibility to safeguard children, and had undertaken relevant training. The childminder agreed to update their child protection policy and procedure in line with best practice guidelines.

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children could independently access a variety of resources and activities were spontaneous to support children's interests. The childminder was knowledgeable about children's individual interests and how to support these. This approach promoted play experiences that were meaningful and interesting, encouraging children to direct their own play and learning.

The childminder understood the importance of outdoor play opportunities. Children walked each day to and from school and nursery. They also had regular opportunities to play outside in the enclosed back

garden. This meant children benefitted from lots of fresh air and exercise.

Children were also developing strong community links by regular visits to the nearby beach, parks, and local toddler groups. This approach helped to enhance children's learning and encouraged them to make positive connections with their local community. A parent commented "I like that the childminder takes my child to toddler groups which builds her social interaction with other children".

The childminder interacted with children in a responsive and nurturing way. Children benefitted from resources that promoted literacy and numeracy through play. For example, we saw a variety of books and children regularly enjoyed story time to encourage communication skills of the youngest children.

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 a homely environment that was well furnished and comfortable. There was space if children wished to rest or relax. The space where children played was well ventilated and offered lots of natural light. Resources were easily accessible and displayed at the children's height, which promoted independence and choice. Resources were regularly rotated and changed to support children's current interests. This gave children a strong message that they were valued and their views mattered. A parent stated that the childminders home was a "Clean and child friendly space and it was well equipped"

Children were able to explore toys and resources which interested them. These included puzzles, board games, books and various other toys including vehicles and plastic figures. The childminder agreed to explore increasing loose part resources, both indoors and out. This would support the development of problem solving skills, imagination and foster curiosity.

Children's health and wellbeing benefitted from good hand hygiene routines. The childminder told us that children washed their hands at key times, such as after messy play and before eating snack to support good standards of hygiene. Infection prevention and control measures were good and helped ensure children had access to an environment that was safe and clean. The childminder talked through their routine for nappy changing. They demonstrated knowledge and competency in the use of PPE (personal protective equipment) and other infection control measures related to personal care.

The children played outside during the inspection. A variety of outdoor toys and equipment which were appropriate for the children attending were available. These included rockers, a chute and a mud kitchen. This supported children's health and wellbeing.

The childminder had risk assessments in place for their home and outings. The childminder agreed to routinely review and updated the risk assessments to reflect any changes to minimise any risk to children.

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 improvement and led well

Children benefitted from the childminder's positive and nurturing ethos. Their caring approach supported children to make choices, be independent and feel included. Parents all strongly agreed that they were involved in the setting and one commented "we are kept up to date on what they have planned, what they have done during the day. At the end of the week we get pictures and updates of everything they have done. Always available and replies if we have messaged during the day".

Communication with families supported the childminder to provide a service that met the needs and interests of children in their care. The childminder regularly shared photographs and details of children's experiences using a social media platform. This approach helped families to feel included in their child's day. Parents commented "we always get a warm welcome when dropping off and picking up my child and informs me what my child has played with that day and another stated "Every day when I collect my child we go inside and I get an update on the day and how my child has been. Very open and welcoming us into her home on drop offs and pick-ups. Can see how she plays and what she is doing daily".

Children and their families had opportunities to feedback on any suggestions for the service, through daily conversations in person or through closed group on social media. The childminder had also asked for feedback by using a questionnaire. The childminder valued their input into the service and stated they would use it to support improvement, if appropriate. The childminder was aware that they could develop a more formal approach to self-evaluation to effectively assess the quality of the service. To support the childminder further with this, we have signposted them to a range of resources available on the Care Inspectorate "Hub". Regularly accessing resources and best practice documents, would enable children to receive care from a service committed to continuous improvement.

The childminder had developed relevant policies that supported the running of the service. These were shared with parents so that they knew what to expect from the service. We suggested they were kept under regular review to ensure they reflected best practice.

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: Skills, knowledge and values

Children were settled and comfortable in the setting. The childminder was responsive to children's cues for support and reassurance. They understood what children needed to help them grow and develop and responded to their needs in a caring and calm manner. This helped children feel safe and secure.

Children were encouraged to share their views, thoughts, and opinions through regular discussion. Children were encouraged to choose activities and experiences each day. This meant children felt listened to, knew their views mattered and supported their feelings of self-confidence.

The childminder understood how children develop and learn. They had completed core training such as First Aid and child protection training. We discussed with the childminder, that they should continue to develop their knowledge and skills through ongoing training. We discussed ways in which the childminder could use

their Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) membership along with the Care Inspectorate Hub and online resources.

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?	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

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