

# Chickadee's Childcare Child Minding

Kirkliston

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
21 May 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Stacy McConnachie

**Service provider number:**  
SP2012984361

**Service no:**  
CS2012313829

## About the service

Chickadee's Childcare is a childminding service in the village of Kirkliston, Edinburgh. The childminder may care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than 6 are under the age of 12, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's own family.

The service is close to local amenities including green spaces and local nurseries and schools. The service is delivered from the childminders 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 play and learning experiences.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection that was undertaken on 21 May 2025 from 09:00 until 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 previous inspection findings, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with three children using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice including interactions with children
- reviewed documents
- gathered feedback about the service from three families.

## Key messages

- 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.
- Children's play experiences and opportunities took into account their interests and choices.
- Children and families felt included in the service because trusting relationships had been formed and communication was effective.
- The childminder could further develop their self-evaluation and quality assurance procedures to highlight what they do well, how they know and what they have identified as areas for improvement.

## 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 quality indicator 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 support of a childminder who was calm and nurturing in their approach. The childminder was seen consistently at the children's level, had eye contact with them and gave them time to respond to questions. Children smiled and approached the childminder confidently for help and cuddles. They felt valued, loved and secure as a result. A parent said, "How my child is super comfortable with my childminder and they both smile when they see each other and my daughter goes into her house happy."

Children's care and support was agreed through information being shared openly and consistently between the childminder and families. Effective communication was supported by daily chats when children were dropped off and collected, private social media channels and formal reviews. Children's routines and care and support needs were detailed to ensure they received the right care at the right times. We suggested the use of a chronology for each child to capture significant information and the development of care plans to demonstrate any action needed to support children's health, wellbeing and safety. A parent said, "She is so welcoming, patient, answers all questions, always contactable, regular updates."

Children enjoyed unhurried, sociable and safe mealtimes. They were confident following mealtime routines. At their group in the morning, children washed their hands and sat together at the table with the childminder. They were encouraged to make healthy choices by being offered fruit or a cracker. At lunchtime, in the childminders home, children sat at the kitchen table and were given a plate which was used for the food in their packed lunches. Children were respected and included in the mealtime experience. A parent said, "Healthy snacks are always available for my child while he attends."

### Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children enjoyed a variety of play experiences that took account of their interests and supported their individual development. An interest in dinosaurs and transport influenced the toys and resources that were available to the children. The childminder had a good understanding of child development and how children learn through play. They used observation and effective assessment to track children's progress and development. A responsive approach supported children's play and learning to ensure they were achieving their potential. We encouraged the childminder to use practice guidance, including Realising the Ambition, Being Me, to reflect on how responsive planning is impacting positively on outcomes for children. A parent said, "I feel my child is always well looked after, stimulated and is always happy to go in the morning."

Children's experiences and progress was regularly shared with families through formal reviews, daily chats and the service social media platform. Trusting relationships and effective communication supported families to share information and inform the childminder of any changes to children's needs. The childminder was responsive and supported children at each stage of their development. Families were included and valued as a result. Parents said, "She always tell me how (name of child) has slept, eaten, played." "My childminder is friendly and has decent communication."

**How good is our setting?****4 - Good**

We evaluated this quality indicator 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 were cared for in a warm, welcoming and homely environment. They were confident as they moved around the areas of the home following their interests and leading their own play and learning. Children showed us the outdoor space where they used the chute and explored the mud area. Toys and resources were easily accessible supporting children to make choices about their play and learning. A child chose a jigsaw from the drawer and matched the pieces. Cosy spaces allowed children 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 childminder made good use of outdoor spaces and the local community. Children enjoyed attending local groups and going on various outings including visits to local parks. Recognising children's rights to daily outdoor play had a positive impact on children's health, wellbeing and happiness. Parents said, "My child is often on outings and gets to attend a weekly group which he loves." "My child has outdoor experiences every single time he attends. Usually to the park or garden but he has had additional visits to the beach, the woods, the pond etc."

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 the use of risk assessment. Children were guided and supported to stay safe through discussion and opportunities to have challenging fun experiences.

Infection, prevention and control measures included cleaning and hand washing routines that were effective. Infection control practices minimised the potential spread of infection, keeping children safe and healthy. The childminder sensitively reminded and supported children to wash their hands at key times throughout the day. When asked about the safety, security and maintenance of the environment, a parent said, "I feel this is the case."

Children and family's personal information was securely stored. This showed the childminder understood their responsibilities regarding storing and processing children's personal information.

**How good is our leadership?****4 - Good**

We evaluated this quality indicator 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 are led well**

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. Trusting relationships and effective communication had supported children and families to feel respected and included in the service.

The childminder had encouraged children and families to have a voice in the delivery of the service. Families had provided positive feedback when asked about the quality of the service. Suggestions had been considered and had influenced the service delivery. This included taking account of children's interests at home. Children and families views were seen as important and they felt listened to. "The childminder is always open to any changes to routine or care that I request."

The childminder had reflected on practice to ensure good outcomes for children. They reflected on children's privacy and dignity when supporting a child with toilet learning. Self-evaluation had enabled the service to deliver quality care and support to meet the changing needs of children and families. We would encourage the childminder to adopt the quality improvement framework to support a formal approach to self-evaluation. They could consult with families about specific quality indicators as part of the self-evaluation process.

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.

## How good is our staff team?

### 4 - Good

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

#### Quality indicator 4.1: Staff skills knowledge and values

The childminder was compassionate, kind and responsive to the individual needs of the children. They demonstrated a rights based approach by reflecting on how care and support was delivered. For instance, they had considered how to support a child's toilet learning when outdoors to ensure their privacy and dignity. Children benefited from warm attachments that supported them to feel safe and secure.

The childminder demonstrated their knowledge and skills were up to date to offer quality experiences for children. They had attended training including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism training. They felt this had enabled them to improve their knowledge and understanding of the additional support children needed. Refresher child protection and first aid training was planned with dates agreed as part of the local childminding group. Professional dialogue with other childminders and information provided by Scottish Childminding Association had supported reflection around current practice. The childminder's continued professional learning and reflective practice supported positive outcomes for children. A parent said, "The childminder looks after my child really well. He is always happy and seems very well looked after."

## 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

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