

Burt, Tracy Child Minding

Grangemouth

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
12 August 2025

Service provided by:
Tracy Burt

Service provider number:
SP2003905522

Service no:
CS2003011212

About the service

Tracy Burt provides a childminding service from her home in Grangemouth. Margaret Binnie is a named assistant. Her home is within close to local schools, shops, parks and other amenities. Children are cared for on the ground floor of her home. They have access to the living room, kitchen and fully enclosed back garden. The toilet facilities are on the first floor.

The childminder worked in partnership with Falkirk Council.

Conditions of registration are;

Number(s) and Age(s) of person(s) to whom service may be provided:

1. To provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, 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 family.

Any other conditions unique to the service:

2. Margaret Binnie is employed as an assistant.
3. Overnight service will not be provided.

The service works in partnership with the Falkirk Council to deliver funded placements.

"As part of this inspection we undertook a focus area. We have gathered specific information to help us understand more about how services support children's safety, wellbeing and engagement in their play and learning. This included reviewing the following aspects:

Staff deployment.

Safety of the physical environment, indoors and outdoors.

The quality of personal plans and how well children's needs are being met.

Children's engagement with the experiences provided in their setting.

This information will be anonymised and analysed to help inform our future work with services."

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Friday 01 August 2025 between 08:45 and 11:30. One child, settling into the service was present. We also visited on Tuesday 05 August between 15:45 and 17:30 when two children were present. 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. We spoke with three parents/carers and received two completed electronic questionnaires
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and how children were supported with their routines, play and learning

- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children's rights, needs and choices were supported very well by the childminder.
- Relationships with parents and carers were well established which promoted effective partnership working.
- The childminder knew children very well and supported their individual needs and routines.
- Children's learning and development was well supported as their interests were used to develop plans. Developing the use of observation could further support this.
- Quality assurance could be further developed to include information about progress made which supports continued improvements.

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

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

Quality Indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support

We evaluated this quality indicator as very good, where major strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

The childminder demonstrated a strong commitment to providing positive outcomes for children. The vision, values and aims reflected the service provided. It was evident that children experienced a relaxed, welcoming and friendly environment where they felt safe and valued. All interactions with children were caring, nurturing and kind which met their needs, rights and choices. Positive attachments and trusting relationships with the childminder and each other promoted a respectful care setting. As they felt secure, children were happy, relaxed and confident in the childminder's care. They were excited as they talked about their experiences and shared information about the activities they had been involved with. They liked that they could " See my friends. Tracy is nice. I get to do fun things." And "Playing with friends, seeing Tracy, having fun and going on outings."

Effective communication with families meant partnership working with parents was very well established. Parents felt included and involved in shaping their child's care, as they regularly shared information with the childminder. This enabled personal plans to be developed to support children's care, learning and routines. A child centred approach which supported responsive care that met their individual needs had been achieved. Parents told us "Tracy has open and honest conversations with us." They stated other qualities were being "proactive, flexible and accommodating." To build on the processes in place, the childminder could further develop the use of personal plans. For example, using the six monthly review to record progress made and agree 'next steps' to support children's continued development. The childminder advised they had updated their record keeping systems which would address this.

Children felt valued as the importance of their emotional well-being was recognised by the childminder. For example, flexible transition plans enabled children to settle into the service at a pace that was right for them. One family said they "Were very happy with initial contact and the settling in was very flexible." In addition, children were helped to recognise their emotions by the use of tokens with facial expressions on them. This enabled children to say how they were feeling . As their emotional well being was acknowledged, children were supported to manage their emotions in a positive way which helped them to build resilience.

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where several strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

Children had access to a variety of toys that promoted different play experiences. The toys and activities available were suitable for the children present, met their needs, stage of development and interests. Children chose what they wanted to do each day . During play, their efforts were acknowledged and praised which gave them a sense of achievement.

Because the childminder understood the needs of children, there was a good balance of planned and

responsive activities. This child centred approach meant children actively led their play. The childminder's positive interactions meant they supported children's choices. For example, children revisited their learning as they shared how they learned about the life cycle of butterflies. They said "We fed them fruit and they turned into red and yellow butterflies. We released them in the garden". Parents shared "My child has been on many days out with Tracy to parks, toddlers, farms, teddy bear picnics, play bugs where they meet up with other child minders so my daughter has a bigger friend group too which she loves. They also go shopping where my daughter gets her own little trolley with a couple of items on a list then pays for it so learning some life skills." And "She (child) is regularly involved in cooking and baking experiences."

A range of documentation was used to show children's learning, development and achievements. The childminder planned to further develop this to include more observations, tracking and clearer 'next steps'. This should give more detailed information about children's learning and how they are supported to achieve their potential. Parents shared their "Child had come on leaps and bounds" due to the range of activities they are involved in.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

We evaluated this key question as very good, where major strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

Quality indicator 2.2 - Children experience high quality facilities.

We saw that all areas were well maintained, risk assessed and organised for children. Effective infection prevention and control measures minimised the spread of infection. We saw hand washing was promoted at appropriate times. As a result children were cared for in an environment that was safe, warm, welcoming and homely.

The childminder explained safety to children and had involved them agreeing ways that promoted a safe setting. They confidently told us about the measures in place which demonstrated they had a good understanding about keeping safe. For example, when the extractor fan was on they didn't go into the kitchen as cooking was taking place. They also described what they would do in the event of an emergency and had to leave the house.

Children's stages of development, interests and curiosities were well considered and reflected in the selection of resources on offer. The childminder responded to their requests for toys they wanted to play with. As a result, they had opportunities to use their imagination as they built with magnetic bricks. Children had fun as they the childminder supported their ideas to develop their play. Toys and resources were stored where they were easily accessible. This promoted choice and could be changed based on children's interests. This stimulated and engaged children in their play.

Importance was placed on being outdoors. Community resources were used every day which meant children benefited from exploring the natural environment. They had opportunities to go to local parks, woods and places of interest that promoted their curiosity and creativity. They learned about risk, had freedom to run around and played on large equipment which developed their physical skills and confidence. These opportunities promoted healthy lifestyle for children. Parents confirmed opportunities included visits to "Parks, farms, picnics, back garden."

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

Quality Indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvement are led well.

The childminder demonstrated a strong commitment to providing positive outcomes for children. The vision, values and aims reflected the service provided. It was evident that children experienced a relaxed, friendly and safe environment where they were happy and confident.

The childminder used national and local guidance to support self-evaluation and identify areas for improvement. In addition she used information from other organisations. For example, participating in meetings with the local authority and being a member of the Scottish childminding association (SCMA). As a result, an overview of the service was in place. To support further improvement, we highlighted a few policies and procedures that could be updated to reflect current best practice guidance. We discussed how the childminder could further develop their approach to self-evaluation to embed a cycle of continuous improvement. For example, recording the significant/specific areas for improvement and evaluating them to determine the effectiveness of the changes.

Formal and informal consultation with parents meant they could share their views about the service and care and support provided. Their feedback enabled the childminder to know what was going well or if anything needed to be adapted. Parents shared that "Tracy is very approachable, chatty and we have regular communication." As a result, families felt involved, listened to and valued as their views informed the care provided.

Children were involved in developing the service as the childminder asked their views. They felt valued and listened to as their interests were used to plan activities and outings which supported their learning and development.

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

We evaluated this key question as very good, where major strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

Quality indicator 4.3: Staff Deployment

The experienced childminder was supported by an assistant. Their values were evident as children's rights were respected. They worked well together and agreed a pattern of attendance that supported a child centred approach. Information was shared which supported children's routines and promoted continuity of care. Their consistent approach meant children had positive experiences as their individual needs and interests were known.

Children benefited from the mix of the childminder's and assistant's skills and experience. Appraisal was used to support the assistant. It offered the opportunity to talk about their work and identify what learning they would benefit from. Moving forward, examples of good practice could be recorded and an evaluation of learning to show how it has improved outcomes for children. To further support their professional development, they could use best practice guidance more which can be found on the Care Inspectorate hub.

Parents shared "My daughter loves going to Tracy's and the excitement every morning on her face and in her voice when she sees Tracy I know that she feels safe and secure there."

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	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	4 - Good

How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very 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?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good

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