

# Bright Beginnings Childminding Child Minding

Musselburgh

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
23 July 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Eilidh Walter

**Service provider number:**  
SP2023000627

**Service no:**  
CS2024000045

## About the service

Bright Beginnings Childminding is a childminding service provided by Eilidh Walter, from their home in a residential area of Musselburgh, East Lothian. The service is close to local primary schools, shops, parks and other amenities.

The childminder may care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time up to 16 years of age:

- of whom no more than 6 are under 12 years;
- of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and;
- of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months.

Children had access to the lounge, kitchen/dining area, child's bedroom for sleeping and an enclosed rear garden.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Wednesday 23 July 2025 between the times of 15:15 and 17:45.

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 and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with two children during the inspection and one parent
- received two on-line questionnaires from families
- observed practice and the setting
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- Children felt valued, loved, and respected because their care and support was delivered in a warm, kind, and compassionate way
- The childminder had a clear understanding of child development and cared for children's individual needs.
- Frequent use of the local community spaces promoted children's social, emotional and physical wellbeing.
- Children were kept safe indoors and outdoors through planned risk assessments and continual vigilance of the childminder.
- The childminder reflected on their practice and used this to evaluate their strengths and areas they needed to improve.

## 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?              | 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?

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

The childminder had a warm and attentive approach. She communicated in a lovely manner and listened to the children. This approach supported the development of strong emotional attachments and positive relationships. As a result, children were able to build trust and feel safe and secure.

Children were fully supported to settle into their environment. Personal comforts such as, soothers and transitional toys were easily accessible to children. The childminder was attuned to children's cues and was responsive to their needs. This supported children to feel safe and secure. One parent told us, "The childminder has been absolutely amazing and my child really loves going. They settled in instantly."

The childminder had a good awareness of the individual needs of the children in her care and these were supported. Children had personal plans that reflected key information about their care needs, likes and dislikes. Daily chats and the use of social media platforms, meant that there was open communication and in the moment sharing of information with families. We could see that they were included and listened to when agreeing the care and support for their children. Parents told us that the childminder communicated well. This ensured children's current health, wellbeing and developmental needs were supported appropriately by the childminder.

Children's wellbeing was very well supported during lunchtime, which was calm, unhurried and sociable. Food choices were nutritious and reflected current guidance and children's preferences. The childminder had a full understanding of children's dietary needs. Younger children were supported to eat in a caring respectful manner and at a time that was right for them. This promoted healthy eating habits and respected children's choice. Fresh drinking water was available throughout the day. One parent told us, "The quality of the food provided is excellent. Always homemade, nutritious, balanced, varied, and appealing. Really amazing!"

Children were kept safe because the childminder had a very good understanding around safeguarding children. The childminder engaged in regular professional development to ensure their practice met current guidance. Appropriate procedures were in place for the administration, safe storage and recording of medication. When required, treatment was given safely and effectively.

### Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

The childminder demonstrated a clear understanding of how children develop and learn. Through observing children's play and understanding their interests, life experiences and developmental stage, the childminder planned quality experience which engaged children. Available resources were age and stage appropriate and reflected children's interests. Children were progressing in their learning as the childminder understood where they needed support and how to provide this. One parent told us, "We have really seen our child learn and grow. I could not hope for a better childminder for my child!"

Children had fun with a very good balance of planned and spontaneous play and learning experiences. They were treated as individuals and encouraged to make their own choices. Children enjoyed imaginative play, stories read by the childminder and playing outdoors with the mud kitchen, sand and on the climbing frame. Children were supported in their play when needed and they were praised for their efforts. As a result, children were being supported to reach their potential. A parent told us, "There is an amazing range of activities every day both indoors and outdoors, guided crafts, wide range of age appropriate toys, books, playing in the garden, going on walks or to the play park. Our child goes outside at least once a day, either to play in the garden or go on a walk, or both."

Photographs and samples of children's creative work were on display. Children had enjoyed celebrating Bastille Day, France's national holiday and made their own creations of the Eiffel Tower. These were shared with families through social media and during handovers. This engaged families in the service so they felt included. One parent told us, "The amount of creativity their child does is 'second to none,'" and Another parent told us, "The range of activities are really amazing. Every day we receive a summary of what our child has done with some photos, so we know exactly everything they did and have learned that day."

## 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 was clean, cosy and welcoming, which provided a homely environment for the children. Areas used by children were clean, naturally lit, well ventilated and furnished, providing a comfortable and relaxed environment for children.

The spaces accessed by children were well organised allowing them to move around with ease and confidence. Children's interests and choices were promoted through safe and easy access to a very good range of play experiences and resources to support their learning. For example, sand, water, books, role and imaginative play. This promoted their natural curiosity to investigate, explore and be creative.

To ensure children's safety and wellbeing, the childminder carried out regular risk assessments covering the home, key activities and outings. Daily visual checks identified and minimised any hazards within the environment. This proactive approach to risk management created a secure environment for children. Families strongly agreed that their child was safe while attending the setting.

There were appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children. Children were encouraged to carry out good hand hygiene. As a result, children played in a safe environment and the spread of infection was minimised.

The enclosed back garden was accessed directly from the kitchen and gave children opportunities to be active and lead a healthy lifestyle. The childminder understood the importance that outdoor play had in the wellbeing and development of children in her care. Children had daily opportunities to explore the garden and the local environment. Children enjoyed being outdoors and were engaged in their play. The childminder was vigilant of children's safety outdoors. They were aware of how to support individual children to meet their physical needs and interest, ensuring they received developmentally appropriate experiences. A parent

told us, "Every day our child has a range of indoor and outdoor activities. There is a mud kitchen in the garden amongst a range of other toys, and our child loves playing with the dirt and water. They often go to the park."

## How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where a number of important strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

### Quality Indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvement and led well

The childminder engaged well during the inspection and was responsive to discussions and suggestions. They were committed to their role and provided a nurturing and warm environment to support positive outcomes for children.

Clear policies and procedures were in place including child protection and complaints. These were regularly reviewed and shared with families. This helped families know what to expect from the service and feel well informed.

The childminder regularly engaged in professional discussions with other childminders. This allowed them to reflect and discuss ways to improve their practice. The childminder was dedicated and motivated to improving their service. They were developing their self-evaluation systems based on the quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare. Moving forward, these should be further developed to highlight areas for improvement and progress made.

The childminder welcomed the views of children and families and used their feedback to aid the development of their service. Parents agreed they were involved in a meaningful way. This approach benefitted children and families as they were included in improving the service.

## How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where a number of important strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

### Quality Indicator 4.1: Skills, knowledge and values

The childminder was warm, kind and compassionate with children in their care. They had developed strong relationships with children and their families. One parent told us, "She is excellent at her job and we are so grateful to have her as our childminder. She is so calm, nurturing and experienced. We have absolutely no concerns sending our child to the service. Our child adores going to the childminders. I know everything they have done throughout the day with photo updates and close communication."

The childminder had gained knowledge and experience of working with children. They had a positive attitude towards developing their skills and knowledge to further improve their practice and meet the needs of children in their care. They had completed training in child protection, food safety and first aid. They demonstrated a clear understanding of ensuring their training was up to date. As a result, children's wellbeing was promoted and they were safe and protected. One parent told us, "Our childminder is calm, professional, knowledgeable and their creative work ethic allows our child to develop well."

## 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?                        | 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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