

Harrison, Angela Child Minding

Dunfermline

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
1 August 2025

Service provided by:
Angela Harrison

Service provider number:
SP2003910733

Service no:
CS2003020346

About the service

Angela Harrison provides a childminding service from their family home in Rosyth, Fife. They provide care for up to six children at any one time under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. The service is close to the local primary school and nursery, beach, parks and other amenities. Children can access the playroom, kitchen, lounge, downstairs bathroom and secure front and back gardens.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 31 July 2025 between 08:45 -12:00. We provided feedback the next day by telephone on 1 August 2025. 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 three children using the service
- spoke with one family in person and one via phone call
- reviewed feedback from five families using MS Forms
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

Children were at the heart of the service, experiencing highly personalised, nurturing care that supported their emotional wellbeing, development and sense of belonging.

Play and learning opportunities were rich, responsive, and child-led, with a stimulating environment indoors and outdoors that encouraged creativity, curiosity and confident exploration.

The childminder demonstrated exceptional leadership, demonstrating the values and aims of the service and driving continuous improvement through reflective practice and sector engagement.

The environment was safe, inspiring, and well-maintained, with thoughtful use of space, high-quality resources and daily opportunities for risky play that supported resilience and independence.

Professional development was a clear priority, with a strong training plan, reflective learning and active sharing of best practice that contributed to sector-wide improvement.

Families were meaningfully involved in the life of the service, with robust systems for consultation, self-evaluation, and communication that ensured everyone felt fully informed, actively included and highly valued.

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?	6 - Excellent
How good is our setting?	6 - Excellent
How good is our leadership?	6 - Excellent
How good is our staff team?	6 - Excellent

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care, play and learning?

6 - Excellent

Quality Indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support.

We evaluated this key question as excellent, where performance was sector leading with outstandingly high outcomes for children.

The childminder demonstrated an exceptional understanding of each child and their family, underpinned by strong, trusting relationships. This enabled them to provide highly personalised care that promoted children's health, wellbeing and overall development. All families who responded to our MS Forms survey told us they strongly agreed that they have a good relationship with their childminder. Some of their comments included: -

"Angie is a loving caring person who genuinely loves supporting my child. Angie always keeps me up to date with everything my child has done throughout the day and offers support to me as a parent of a child with additional support needs".

"I have a very positive and trusting relationship with my Angie. Communication is always open and honest, and I feel completely comfortable discussing any aspect of my child's life. It's clear that she genuinely cares, and that gives me great reassurance as a parent".

Children and families were clearly at the heart of the service. Their views and experiences were actively sought and used to inform ongoing improvements. This inclusive and collaborative approach ensured that any changes made were meaningful and led to positive outcomes for children, families and the wider community. One parent told us that "Angie is so receptive to feedback and supporting each child in their interests".

Personal plans were of a consistently high standard. They were well-documented, regularly reviewed and clearly reflected children's progress, interests and next steps. These plans were used effectively to empower children to achieve their full potential, with families contributing to shared goals and support strategies.

The childminder was highly skilled and committed to their role. They had created a rich and engaging environment where children could thrive and flourish. Their interactions were warm, respectful and responsive, supporting children not only to have fun but also to develop across all areas of their care, play and learning.

Mealtimes were relaxed and sociable, allowing children to eat according to their needs. Drinking water was available throughout the session, promoting independence and healthy habits. These routines supported children's physical wellbeing and contributed to a calm and respectful atmosphere.

The childminder consistently demonstrated excellent practice in upholding children's privacy and dignity during personal care routines. Children who could wash their hands independently were encouraged to do so with minimal supervision, supporting independence and self-confidence. For younger children, the childminder provided calm, respectful support such as narrating each step and offering choices, to help build their skills while preserving their sense of agency. The environment was thoughtfully arranged with a designated private area, allowing nappy changes to be carried out discreetly.

This proactive approach not only safeguarded children's emotional wellbeing but also promoted a culture of respect and trust within the setting.

Although no medication was being administered at the time of inspection, robust systems were in place to ensure safe and effective management when required. Policies and procedures reflected best practice and were well understood by the childminder.

Children's emotional wellbeing was clearly prioritised. Observations during the inspection highlighted the childminder's warm and responsive interactions, which helped children feel happy, settled and confident within the setting.

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning.

Children experienced a rich and stimulating environment where play and learning were seamlessly integrated. The childminder demonstrated a deep understanding of child development and used this knowledge to plan and deliver high-quality experiences that supported children's learning, creativity and curiosity. Play was child-led and responsive, with the childminder skilfully observing and extending children's interests. Activities were varied, meaningful and appropriately challenging, enabling children to explore, experiment and develop new skills at their own pace.

Children were encouraged to make choices and lead their own learning. The environment was well-organised and resourced to promote independence, problem-solving and imaginative play. Daily opportunities for extended outdoor play were prioritised, well-planned, supporting physical development and a connection with nature. All families told us that their children always had opportunities to play outdoors. One parent told us "My child has absolutely thrived in Angie's care due to her commitment to getting the children outdoors and exploring. Her extensive weatherproof kit means we have been able to include my child in beach visits, forest walks, coastal exploration and more. She is incredibly knowledgeable about having the children outdoors and my child just loves the freedom to roam in a safe and sociable way".

Planning approaches were highly flexible and consistently responsive to children's evolving needs and interests. The childminder used detailed, meaningful observations to identify next steps and skilfully adapt experiences to support individual progress. Learning was clearly documented and regularly shared with families, fostering strong partnerships and continuity between home and the setting. Children were exceptionally well supported to learn and develop at their own pace, with their unique strengths and interests actively recognised, celebrated and embedded into daily experiences, ensuring every child felt valued and empowered.

The childminder used a wide range of highly effective strategies to support children's communication and language, including interactive storytelling, purposeful singing and open-ended questioning. These approaches were embedded into daily routines and led to clear progress. Children were using new vocabulary confidently, initiating conversations with peers, and expressing ideas more clearly during play and group activities.

Children's progress was clearly evident through their high levels of engagement, confidence and enjoyment. The childminder regularly celebrated achievements and supported children to reflect on their learning. For example, children confidently shared their work, set personal goals and talked about what they had learned. This helped build resilience and a strong sense of self.

The childminder has continued to demonstrate reflective practice and develop their knowledge and skills since their last inspection. This passion and commitment had supported the childminder to provide consistent high quality experiences for children and their families. Through discussions with the childminder and feedback from families, we were confident that these excellent practices would be maintained.

How good is our setting?

6 - Excellent

Quality Indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities.

We evaluated this key question as excellent, where performance was sector leading with outstandingly high outcomes for children.

Children benefited from an exceptionally high-quality, well-organised environment that was safe, stimulating and nurturing. The dedicated playroom was extremely well resourced, offering a wide variety of materials that sparked creativity, curiosity and imaginative play. Resources were carefully selected to support all ages and stages of development, enabling children to explore and learn in ways that suited their individual needs. The childminder demonstrated their ability to sustain excellent practice in this area by developing an additional high quality play space and was involving children and families in this process.

Outdoor spaces were thoughtfully planned and used daily to extend children's learning and promote physical wellbeing. Children regularly accessed natural environments such as the beach and woods, where risky play was actively encouraged. These experiences allowed children to lead their own play, develop confidence and build essential life skills. Through these opportunities, children gained a strong sense of their local community and the ability to assess and manage risk.

Furnishings throughout the setting were of high quality, and all areas were exceptionally well maintained and clean. Infection prevention and control (IPC) was a clear priority, with handwashing routines embedded into daily practice. Outdoor handwashing was also discussed and implemented, helping to keep children safe and reduce the risk of infection during community outings.

Risk assessments were comprehensive and regularly reviewed. Children were actively involved in assessing risks, particularly in outdoor environments, which helped them understand how to stay safe while still engaging in adventurous and challenging play. This approach supported children's independence and decision-making skills.

Children's personal information was stored securely and in line with current guidance, ensuring confidentiality and data protection were upheld.

The environment also promoted sustainability and healthy living. Children were involved in growing their own fruit and vegetables, including strawberries, raspberries, garlic and potatoes. A small nature pond with tadpoles and frogs further enriched their understanding of the natural world and supported learning about life cycles and environmental responsibility.

How good is our leadership?

6 - Excellent

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

We evaluated this key question as excellent, where performance was sector leading with outstandingly high outcomes for children.

Leadership within the service was outstanding. The childminder demonstrated a deep commitment to delivering high-quality care and learning, underpinned by a clear and concise vision, values and aims. Their passion and enthusiasm were evident throughout the inspection, and their genuine love and nurture for children created a warm, inclusive and aspirational environment.

Children and families were actively involved in shaping the service. Daily discussions and ongoing consultation ensured that their voices were heard and respected. For example, the use of floor books were used effectively to gather children's ideas and opinions. Children were consistently consulted about the pace of their day and the activities they wished to engage in; this approach empowered children, promoted choice and a sense of ownership.

The service was extremely well organised, with clear systems in place to record children's learning, development and next steps. Attendance records were concise and well maintained, supporting effective monitoring and safeguarding.

Engagement with sector developments was strong. The childminder made regular use of the Care Inspectorate Hub and attended relevant training, including sessions on the Quality Improvement Framework for Early Learning and Childcare sectors. This commitment to staying informed ensured that the service remained aligned with current best practice.

Collaboration with other local childminders was a key strength. The childminder actively shared ideas and best practice, contributing to a wider culture of improvement and enhancing children's experiences through shared learning.

A clear and focused development plan was in place, identifying strengths and areas for improvement. This plan was specific to the needs of the service and demonstrated a proactive approach to continuous improvement.

Policies and procedures were well-developed and regularly reviewed and supported with consistent, high-quality care and learning.

Self-evaluation processes were robust and inclusive. Families reported feeling informed and involved in the life of the service, and their feedback was used to shape ongoing improvements.

The childminder also contributed to sector-wide improvement by actively sharing innovative practices, including conceptual numeracy approaches and a nature kindergarten case study. This highlighted their leadership and commitment to excellence in early learning and childcare.

How good is our staff team?

6 - Excellent

Quality Indicator 4.1: Skills, knowledge and values.

We evaluated this key question as excellent, where performance was sector leading with outstandingly high outcomes for children.

The childminder demonstrated highly skilled observational techniques, expertly identifying children's needs and creatively adapting activities to support their development. This helped children feel understood and supported in their learning journey. One parent told us "As a parent with a child with additional support needs it is important that my child is given opportunities and experiences that Angie is more than happy to accommodate. She always involves my child with everything". This carefully considered approach ensured all children were included, respected and their uniqueness valued. This also enhanced the learning opportunities available to all children and supported them to flourish and thrive in the childminder's care.

The childminder showed great confidence in supporting positive behaviour, using gentle guidance and clear boundaries to help children feel secure and respected. Their calm and consistent approach created a stable, loving environment where children had built trusting relationships and felt emotionally safe.

The childminder used their research and learning to inspire creative and innovative practice. Their deep understanding of child development and learning was clear in their daily practice; for example, children told us about making playdough on the beach using sea water from the Firth of Forth and using shells and seaweed to add texture.

Families held the childminder in very high regard with some comments including:

"Angie is a phenomenal child minder. The way she intuitively responds to each child cannot be understated. She is informed, compassionate and responsive - choosing Angie to care for my son is the best decision we've made".

"One of the most positive things about the childminding service is the personalised care Angie provides; she really understands my child's needs and interests. I also love that my child spends so much time outdoors, exploring nature and having fun with other kids. The environment feels safe and nurturing, and I appreciate how open Angie is with me about my child's development and daily experiences".

"Angie is so passionate about her job. She is always positive and happy to see my children. She speaks to them about their families and likes/interests".

The childminder was dedicated to their continued learning and professional development. A clear training and development plan was in place, with training records that included reflections and identified how learning would be applied in their daily practice. This ongoing commitment to professional learning meant children consistently benefited from care that was informed, well-organised, and delivered with devotion. This had a clear, positive impact where children showed increased confidence during group activities, transitions were managed more smoothly, and planning was more responsive to individual needs. These outcomes reflect the values of a high-quality childcare setting and demonstrate how continuous learning directly supports children's wellbeing and development.

Their values of kindness, respect and inclusion were clear in everything they did, helping build strong trusting relationships with children and families.

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?	6 - Excellent
1.1 Nurturing care and support	6 - Excellent
1.3 Play and learning	6 - Excellent

How good is our setting?	6 - Excellent
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	6 - Excellent

How good is our leadership?	6 - Excellent
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	6 - Excellent

How good is our staff team?	6 - Excellent
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	6 - Excellent

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