

# Sinclair, Morven Child Minding

Prestwick

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
10 October 2023

**Service provided by:**  
Morven Sinclair

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003902991

**Service no:**  
CS2003005163

## About the service

Morven Sinclair provides a childminding service, and was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

Morven Sinclair, Childminding may provide care for a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school, and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. Overnight care will not be provided.

The childminding service is located in the town of Prestwick, South Ayrshire. The service is close to local schools, parks, beaches, and other community amenities. The children are cared for in a living room, kitchen and dining area, and have access to the bathroom. Children also have access to an enclosed rear garden.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 6 October 2023 between 11:15 and 14:30. 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 five people using the service, and five of their families via Care Inspectorate questionnaires
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- Children experienced warm, nurturing care and support from a responsive childminder which helped them feel happy, safe, and secure.
- Children's personal plans were in place and reflected their individual health, safety, and wellbeing needs, as well as their stages of development.
- Strong relationships and effective communication with families ensured that children's needs were met and children were progressing well.
- The childminder was committed to the continuous improvement of the service.
- Further professional development opportunities would help keep the childminder up-to-date with national practice guidance.
- A self-evaluation process should be developed to support the quality of the service and work towards 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?	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

Children experienced a warm, caring, nurturing approach from the childminder who knew children very well. The childminder had strong attachments with the children and they received encouragement as they played and enjoyed freedom of choice. The children were very comfortable during play and the childminder displayed positive interactions with the children when supporting their play. This allowed children to feel safe and secure in the childminder's home. Children presented as happy, confident, and settled. One family commented, "the childminder provides a warm, welcoming home environment."

Daily routines were well established and included local outings such as visits to parks, beaches, and the toddler group in the mornings returning to the childminder's home for lunch, giving children a sense of belonging and security.

Children ate snacks and lunch in the dining area at a spacious and comfortable table which was set up for children and included a wipeable table cover. The childminder sat with the children and they enjoyed a sociable unhurried lunch together, talking about their morning whilst children were encouraged to be independent. The childminder provided healthy and nutritious snacks and parents provided healthy packed lunches. Children's health and wellbeing was supported as they learned about making healthy life choices.

Children's personal plans were in place and up-to-date, ensuring their health and wellbeing needs were being met. The childminder knew all children very well and had developed strong attachment and relationships with the children in their care. This meant that they knew the children's individual routines, preferences, and care needs. Families were meaningfully and actively involved in the plans and, they were reviewed regularly to ensure continuity of care. The childminder had started using wellbeing indicators to ensure that children's care and support was tailored to meet their individual needs. All families strongly agreed that they were fully involved in their children's care, including developing and reviewing their personal plans.

Children's emotional security and wellbeing needs were well supported through comfortable and cosy sleeping arrangements. Younger children often slept during the day and they slept on mats with their own blankets. The childminder was aware of the Safer sleep guidance, and good hygiene practices were in place.

Children were protected as the childminder had completed training on Safeguarding children and young people, and was confident about taking forward protocols to keep children safe.

### Quality indicator 1.3: Play and Learning

On the day of the inspection, children had been taken to a local toddler group and returned to the childminder's home for lunch and to play indoors. Children were included in their local community and had daily opportunities to walk to local parks, beaches, and museums, providing children with a sense of belonging.

Children's play and learning was supported and extended by a variety of toys and resources that reflected their interests and choices, including books and puzzles. A child enjoyed playing imaginatively on a floormat which had a range of imaginative toys and games that were age and stage appropriate. Children also participated in a range of arts and craft activities and this allowed children freedom of choice and expression. The childminder supported children's learning by extending their interests through gentle encouragement and responsive interactions and asking open ended questions. As a result, children were involved in play that was meaningful and stimulating.

The childminder was responsive to children's individual needs and recognised experiences that supported their progress and learning. One child sat on the childminder's knee whilst they read a couple of favourite books which the child responded to with smiles when the childminder talked about the characters in the story. The child was very engaged in the learning experience and responded by repeating words and naming objects which contributed to their speech and language development.

Children benefited from opportunities to play outdoors in the childminders' garden with a seesaw, ride on cars, and balls which promoted children's physical development and a sense of wellbeing. A mud kitchen was available and used for water play and sand. We suggested more use of mud for children to extend their learning and sensory experiences and develop their creative and imaginative skills. Children were provided with daily trips to visit the local parks, beach, and toddler group which enabled children to socialise and develop a strong connection to their community. One family commented, "Great opportunities for outdoor learning. Lots of good skills and knowledge being passed on too."

The childminder's knowledge and understanding of child development and planning for children's play and learning supported children to achieve their potential. Developmental milestone charts were used for every child which involved observing, monitoring and tracking children's individual progress over time to ensure they were reaching their full potential. Their achievements were well documented and shared with families. All families strongly agreed that their children had opportunities to be involved in meaningful, interesting, and fun play experiences.

## 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**

Children were cared for in a warm, nurturing and homely environment which was furnished to a very high standard and well maintained. Children were confident as they moved around the areas of the home including supervised access to the outdoor area. Children accessed toys and resources that reflected their interests demonstrating the childminder's awareness of children's preferences and stage of development. Children were making progress in their development and they had good opportunities to achieve and develop a range of skills.

The outdoor play area was secure with a double locked gate to ensure children were safe. The boundary fence and adjoining gate was adjacent to the open driveway. We suggested that play equipment is kept well away from the fence line and we signposted the childminder to the Care Inspectorate's 'Keeping children safe practice notes and the SIMOA (Safety, Inspect, Monitor, Observe, Act) campaign' to raise awareness of the potential for children to leave settings without an adult.

The childminder had a good understanding of potential risks and had put risk assessments in place. All areas used for childminding within the home were risk assessed and we found appropriate safety measures to be in place, for example, a safety gate between the kitchen and laundry room, which lead to the external door to the garden. Other risk assessments included walks to the beach, which considered potential risks or hazards and actions taken to mitigate those, for example, ensuring the beach was safe and clean.

The childminder had kept the required records including accident and incident records, medication records, and a pet policy. Children and family's personal information was securely stored and a private social media page was used for communication with families. This showed the childminder was clear of their responsibility of the service and knew which records must be kept. They were registered with the Information Commissioner's Office.

When children required personal care, the appropriate resources and facilities were provided and followed good practice guidance. We were satisfied that the childminder had good infection prevention and control measures in place, including a soap dispenser and handtowels for 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 are led well

The childminder had a vision, values and aims of the service which were used to positively influence their day-to-day practice. This information was shared with families when registering children and a strong focus on nurture, care, and development is noted in the childminder's handbook. This meant families knew what to expect and could make any suggestion to inform the childminder's practice enabling children to receive personalised care.

The childminder had a very good understanding of their role and responsibilities in relation to keeping children safe and planning to support children's health, care, and wellbeing needs. Throughout our inspection visit, the childminder was open to feedback, welcomed advice, and reflected on future improvements.

The childminder was organised, they had appropriate public liability insurance in place and some policies and procedures in place, as well as a current handbook for families.

Informal feedback was received from families and this was used to continuously improve the service. The childminder was open and found feedback useful to ensure the service provided met families' needs and expectations. Children's rights were upheld, however, the views of children could be further sought on their interests, preferences, and experience of the service which could inform future practice and influence change. Almost all families strongly agreed that they were involved in a meaningful way to help develop the setting and their ideas and suggestions are used to influence change.

The childminder had begun to reflect on the need to develop a self-evaluation process to support the quality of their service and work towards improvements. We signposted the childminder to the Care Inspectorate document, 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare' as a tool for self-evaluation. This means the childminder will be able to develop a plan to support continuous improvement that will bring about positive change and improve outcomes for children.

The childminder was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and had made good links with other local childminders to share practice, knowledge, and ideas as well as reflect together. They found this was a valuable and supportive resource.

## 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: Staff skills and knowledge, and values

Children were happy, safe and secure as the childminder cared for them with warmth, kindness and compassion. The relationships the childminder had with children and families was a main strength identified during the inspection. The childminder worked in partnership with families and valued their input. They spent quality time with families each day, speaking with them and listening to their views and expectations in relation to children's care and support needs.

The childminder was very experienced, competent, and skilled in offering children good quality care, play, and learning experiences. They had shown a strong commitment to the quality of the service, and they had completed training on Safeguarding children and young people as well as emergency first aid at work, and is currently undertaking an SVQ level 3 in Social Services to support their practice.

We suggested that they dedicate time to their professional development and learning to help embed current National practice guidance resulting in improved outcomes for children. We signposted the latest practice note, 'Growing my potential which promotes safe, responsive, nurturing care and learning experiences for babies and young children aged one and two-years to help tailor experiences for individual children' available at Care Inspectorate HUB .

## 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



## To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

## Contact us

Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

## Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.