

# Connolly, Diane Child Minding

DUNFERMLINE

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
1 October 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Diane Connolly

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003904609

**Service no:**  
CS2003007672

## About the service

Diane Connolly provides a childminding service from her home in Dalgety Bay, Fife. On the ground floor, children had access to the lounge, kitchen and access to the garden. Toilet facilities were on the upper floor.

The conditions of registration for the service are;

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. Numbers include the children of the childminder's family/household.

Overnight care will not be provided.

Minded children can only be cared for by persons named on the certificate

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Tuesday 30 September 2025 between 15:30 and 16:15. As no minded children were present, we concluded the inspection on Wednesday 01 October 2025 between 15:15 and 16:15. 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 one child. We also received one response to our electronic questionnaire
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and how children were supported in their routines and play.
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- Children benefitted from kind, caring and respectful interactions that supported their needs, rights and choices.
- Children had developed nice friendships and had fun as they led their own play.
- Quality assurance had self-evaluation could be further developed to evaluate the service, make changes and identify future plans.
- The childminder could develop systems to show how observation and planning is used to support child centred play.

## 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

Leadership	4 - Good
Children play and learn	4 - Good
Children are supported to achieve	5 - Very Good

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

## Leadership 4 - Good

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where there were important strengths within the setting's work and some aspects which could benefit from improvement.

**Quality Indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources**

The childminder had created a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment. This positive ethos enabled effective communication with families which meant they felt included and respected. They shared "The (childminder) provides a very caring and safe environment. We know her and trust her."

Policies and procedures were in place which supported practice. We identified that some information could be updated using current guidance. Using 'A quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding' should support this process. Referring to the quality indicators will help highlight any areas that could be developed.

Informal self-evaluation was in place. Through discussion, children were encouraged to share their views about the service. Moving forward, the childminder planned to develop an improvement plan to record changes. For example, the garden was currently being developed for children. The benefits for children's play and experiences should be recorded.

## Children play and learn 4 - Good

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where there were important strengths within the setting's work and some aspects which could benefit from improvement.

**Quality Indicator: Playing, learning and developing.**

Children had time and space to make informed choices about their play. The responsive approach of the childminder enabled children to extend and develop their games. Children were confident about sharing their ideas as they talked about their play and what they were thinking and doing. They said "I'm going to make cupcakes." This helped extend their games and supported positive outcomes. In addition, resources were added when children wanted to have presents at the 'tea party' they were having.

The childminder ensured activities that interested children were available. Interactions were balanced which supported children to lead and develop their games. Requests from children were responded to positively as the childminder listened to and supported their ideas. This enabled children to use their imagination, be creative and have fun in their play.

Children contributed their ideas to plans for activities. For example, baking activities were planned as children had asked for this. The use of observation could be used to further develop play opportunities. This will help children extend their thinking, learn new skills and build confidence.

## Children are supported to achieve 5 - Very Good

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where there were important strengths within the setting's work and some aspects which could benefit from improvement.

**Quality Indicator: Children are supported to achieve**

All interactions were kind, caring and respectful which meant children's rights were respected.

Children's routines, needs and personalities were known and used to promote an environment where they felt safe, loved and secure.

Personal plans were in place for all children and contained information that helped meet their individual needs. Children had the opportunity to complete 'all about me' with things that they wanted to share with the childminder. A child centred approach was in place as regular updates was shared with parents each day and at reviews. The childminder, therefore, demonstrated a very good knowledge of children's interests, personalities and development. As a result, plans supported children to achieve. Parents shared "We have frequent chats and communications about our child's care." And "We have already discussed things I'd like (child) to explore more and the things she enjoys while at (childminders) house

Food choices were nutritional and healthy. Children influenced the menu as their preferences were included on the days they attended. Parents confirmed that the childminder "Included (child's) favourite fruits in the breakfast and snack choices". Snack time was a positive experience as children and the childminder sat together. They benefitted from the social time as they chatted about their day.

Well established relationships with families were in place. Parents felt listened to and knew they could share information that would be used to support children. Their views were valued and contributed to the service provided. For example, strategies to support children to develop independence were agreed. We asked that the strategies were updated to reflect any changes.

## 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

Leadership	4 - Good
Leadership and management of staff and resources	4 - Good
Children play and learn	4 - Good
Playing, learning and developing	4 - Good
Children are supported to achieve	5 - Very Good
Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good

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