

# Wendy's House Child Minding

Falkirk

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
3 November 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Wendy Smith

**Service provider number:**  
SP2011982694

**Service no:**  
CS2011299329

## About the service

Wendy Smith provides a childminding service from their home in Falkirk. The service is registered to care for a maximum of six children under the age of 16 years, of whom a maximum of six will be under 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Children have access to their own dedicated outdoor cabin, living room, kitchen, a toilet and a safe enclosed garden. The service is within easy reach of local facilities including shops, parks and schools.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 31 October 2025 between 9:40 and 12:30. We gave feedback on Monday 3 November 2025 using Teams technology. 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 using the service
- received feedback from two families
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents

As part of our inspections, we assess core assurances. Core assurances are checks we make to ensure children are safe, the physical environment is well maintained and that a service is operating legally. At the time of this inspection, no improvements were identified relating to core assurances.

## Key messages

Children experienced nurturing and responsive care that consistently met their individual needs. This supported strong attachments, which promoted their health and wellbeing.

Children enjoyed rich, engaging experiences indoors and outdoors. This encouraged children to develop confidence, creativity and important skills for life.

Positive relationships were a key strength of the service; this supported families to feel involved and confident in all aspects of their child's care.

Children's personal plans were used effectively to support wellbeing and development by identifying and responding to changing needs, enabling tailored care and positive outcomes.

The childminder used effective self-evaluation to identify and act on improvements, resulting in high-quality care, play and learning for children.

## 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	5 - Very Good
Children play and learn	5 - Very 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 5 - Very Good

We found major strengths in this aspect of the setting's work and identified very few areas for improvement; therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

### **Leadership and management of staff and resources.**

The childminder had created a warm, inclusive environment that supported respectful and effective communication with families, helping them feel valued and involved. The childminder demonstrated a strong commitment to their service and this was evident in the clear and inclusive vision, values and aims. This vision focused on making sure every child was treated fairly, with respect and care. The childminder's values were clear in their everyday routines and were shared with families, promoting a shared understanding of service.

Communication was a key strength: families told us they felt well informed about their child's progress through verbal interactions and digital tools such as the 'Baby's Days' app. This ensured families and children felt involved and able to contribute. This inclusive approach supported real partnership working. Some positive comments from families included:

"Wendy always has a good chat with us before and after the session to tell us what our child has been doing that day".

"Wendy is good at keeping us updated with our child's development and regularly shares updates with us via paperwork in person and via the Baby's Days app".

The childminder demonstrated a strong commitment to continuous improvement through regular reflection and a proactive approach to enhancing children's experiences. As a result, children benefited from consistent routines, personalised support and high-quality experiences that promoted their wellbeing, learning and development. This was further supported by well-organised and relevant paperwork, including daily records, policies and planning for learning. This supported the childminder in meeting children's needs effectively and contributed to a calm, well-organised environment focused on delivering high-quality care.

Effective leadership was further supported with clear self-evaluation and quality assurance procedures. The childminder was already using best practice guidance 'A quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding' to support their improvement journey. Feedback from children and their families was regularly sought using QR codes and this encouraged family engagement and informed meaningful change. The childminder kept a comprehensive training log and regularly reflected on professional learning, applying new knowledge to daily practice. This reflective approach supported ongoing development, increased confidence, and ensured the service remained responsive, up to date and focused on continuous improvement.

## Children play and learn 5 - Very Good

We found major strengths in this aspect of the setting's work and identified very few areas for improvement; therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

### Playing, learning and developing.

Children experienced a wide range of engaging and meaningful play opportunities, both indoors and outdoors. Outdoor play was a particular strength, offering rich opportunities for exploration, physical activity, and following individual interests. The childminder provided a well-balanced approach to child-led play and adult support, helping children build confidence, independence and key skills such as language, literacy, numeracy and emotional regulation. We saw children move freely between the dedicated play cabin and the garden, choosing where they played; this encouraged children to lead their own play and learning. The indoor learning environment within the play cabin was creative and stimulating, encouraging curiosity, imagination and problem-solving. Children were given time and space to make choices and express their views, which were consistently respected. This inclusive approach helped children feel secure, valued and actively involved in their learning.

Interactions between the childminder and children were warm, responsive and attuned to individual needs. Sensitive use of verbal and non-verbal cues created a calm and nurturing atmosphere. The childminder added value and enhanced children's play through skilled questioning for example 'what would happen if...?' to deepen children's thinking and extend learning without interrupting their play. Peer interactions were well supported, helping children develop social skills, share, and build friendships.

Planning approaches were clearly child led and responsive. Observations of children's play and development informed tailored experiences that reflected their interests and individual next steps. Outdoor learning was thoughtfully prioritised and supported children's natural curiosity. Progress was regularly shared and achievements were celebrated with families. The childminder's reflective practice ensured all children remained engaged, included and progressing in their learning.

## Children are supported to achieve 5 - Very Good

We found major strengths in this aspect of the setting's work and identified very few areas for improvement; therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

### Nurturing care and support.

The childminder provided warm, consistent and responsive care that clearly supported children's emotional and physical wellbeing. Daily routines, such as mealtimes and personal care, were used thoughtfully to build trust, promote independence and help children feel safe and secure. Care was tailored to each child's individual needs, delivered with kindness and compassion, and supported children to express themselves, manage their emotions and develop social skills in a calm and respectful environment. Families commented positively on the care their children received and one parent told us the childminder "is perfect for our needs and seems to have really connected with our child". Another parent said "Wendy is responsive to our child's needs and provides cuddles and a safe comfortable bed for when our child is tired".

Transitions between home and the setting were well planned, helping children settle smoothly and feel reassured. Nutrition and hydration were well managed, with fresh water available throughout the day. Clear communication was shared with families about meals and snacks and this supported them to understand current best practice guidance.

Personal plans were in place for all children and these plans were created in partnership with families. The plans contained key information which helped the childminder to support children's overall development and meet their individual needs. Plans were regularly reviewed with families to ensure information was current to fully meet the needs of children. This approach ensured families were included in the care of their child. The childminder used these plans effectively to support development, wellbeing, and smooth transitions, adapting them as children's needs changed.

The childminder knew children and families well. We saw highly positive and respectful relationships. Families were recognised as active partners in their child's care and learning, and families told us the setting offered a warm, home-from-home environment where children could flourish. Feedback from families, including responses via Microsoft Forms, confirmed they felt welcomed, valued and reassured. Open and meaningful communication supported trust and helped ensure the service was inclusive and responsive to each child's unique background and experiences.

Connections with the local community were used effectively to enrich children's learning experiences. The childminder actively engaged with local resources and opportunities, helping children build a sense of belonging and broaden their understanding of the world around them. These experiences supported children's social development, confidence and curiosity.

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

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