

Morris, Nancy Child Minding

Edinburgh

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
22 September 2025

Service provided by:
Nancy Morris

Service provider number:
SP2010978339

Service no:
CS2010250504

About the service

Nancy Morris is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children under the age of 16, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and no more than one shall be under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family.

The service operates from the childminder's home in North East Edinburgh and is close to a local school, nursery, shops, parks, woodland areas and public transport links. Children have access to the playroom/dining area, lounge kitchen and toilet facilities. They can also access an enclosed garden at the front and rear of the property.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 17 September 2025 between 11:15 and 13:15. 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, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with children using the service
- gathered the views of nine parents
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and children's experiences
- reviewed documents.

As part of this inspection, we undertook a focus area. We have gathered specific information to help us understand more about how services support children's safety, wellbeing and engagement in their play and learning. This included reviewing the following aspects:

- Staff deployment
- Safety of the physical environment, indoors and outdoors
- The quality of personal plans and how well children's needs are being met
- Children's engagement with the experiences provided in their setting.

This information will be anonymised and analysed to help inform our future work with services.

Key messages

- Children were happy, confident and settled in the care of the childminder.
- Children experienced warm and caring interactions, supporting them to feel loved, safe and secure.
- Positive relationships with families supported effective communication and information sharing to ensure continuity of care.
- Children accessed a wide variety of play opportunities that met their interests and stage of development.
- Opportunities for play and learning were enhanced through positive connections with the local and wider community.

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?	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very 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 were happy and relaxed in the care of the childminder and interactions were consistently calm, respectful, and nurturing. The childminder responded to children with patience and understanding, creating a secure and emotionally supportive atmosphere.

Parents were positive in their feedback and all strongly agreed with the statement, "Overall, I am happy with the care and support my child receives in this service." Parents told us, "Children are at the heart of everything Nancy does" and "Nancy provides a home from home, a loving, caring, supportive, inclusive environment".

The childminder worked closely with parents to ensure their routines and preferences were consistent with home. Information gathered informed personal plans and included children's interests, medical and dietary requirements. Six monthly reviews were carried out to ensure the children's care and support was right for them. This meant that families had trust and confidence in the care and support the childminder offered.

Effective medication systems and procedures were in place to keep children safe. Whilst children did not currently need medication administered, the childminder had procedures in place which were in line with best practice guidance 'Management of Medication in Day care and Childminding Services. This meant that should children require medication; the childminder was well placed to administer medication safely.

The childminder recognised the importance of rest and sleep for children's overall wellbeing and followed routines from home. Travel cots and sleep mats were provided for younger children to rest and sleep. The childminder was aware of safe sleeping guidance and told us children were supervised while sleeping and lots of physical comfort was offered when waking. This promoted good habits and supported children's emotional security and wellbeing.

The childminder had a very good knowledge and understanding of their role and responsibilities in safeguarding and protecting children. They had completed child protection training and were confident in appropriate action to take if concerns for the welfare or wellbeing of children should arise. This meant that children's safety and wellbeing was well supported.

Mealtimes were an unhurried and relaxed experience for children and supported opportunities for social interactions between children and the childminder. For example, children enjoyed chatting with the childminder about the activities and experiences of their day. The childminder used recognised nutritional guidance, to promote healthy eating habits. The childminder provided a variety of home cooked meals and snacks for children and made good use of seasonal produce from their own allotment. For example, at lunchtime we saw children enjoying apples and blackcurrants they had picked from the allotment. One parent told us, "I love that Nancy provides healthy and nutritious food for my children. Nancy helps the children to grow food that they can then use to make soups, salads, and other snacks".

Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children were happy and enjoyed a variety of opportunities which met their needs, interests, and curiosities. This meant that play was meaningful. Parents shared, "Nancy gives the kids a huge range of fun experiences. They've gone to the museum, gone out beachcombing and grown vegetables".

Children were leading their own play, exploring and being creative. This ensured a true child centred approach was embedded within the service. The childminder knew the children well and ensured there was a balance of resources to meet their needs. They provided children with challenge to help support their interest. For example, a recent theme focussed on caring for the planet, children told us of their plan to make their own paper and the process involved.

Children were able to access a variety of books and mark making activities, and the use of songs and rhymes promoted early communication and language skills. Parents told us, "Nancy incorporates learning into tasks in a fun and engaging way."

The childminder had a very good understanding of child development and how to secure children's progress. This was demonstrated in effective observations of children's play. Families were informed of progress through daily updates and more formally through individualised progress reports. Children's successes and achievements were recognised and celebrated with families during the day through secure social media platforms. The childminder used floorbooks to record children's voice and document their experiences and celebrations. This helped create a sense of belonging for children.

Opportunities for play and learning were enhanced through strong connections with the local and wider community. Visits to local parks, the local library, the childminder's allotment and nature walks enabled children to explore different experiences. These contributed to children having opportunities to be active and lead a healthy lifestyle. Local playgroups provided further learning opportunities and supported children to make social connections and feel included within their community.

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 had created a warm and welcoming environment for children. There was space for children to play together with their peers or on their own. Children had comfortable places to play, relax, and sleep, for example, the living room, dining area/playroom and enclosed front and rear garden. Parents comments received included, "I am always so assured about my children's safety when they are with Nancy. She encourages children to take responsibility for their actions and to develop a sense of independence within a safe and nurturing environment.

Children's health and wellbeing was promoted through good infection prevention and control measures to ensure a safe and hygienic environment. Children were encouraged to develop self-care skills and follow good hand washing procedures. During personal care routines, the childminder used appropriate personal protective clothing to further prevent the spread of infection. We observed good cleaning practices and toys were well-maintained. This meant that children were cared for in a pleasant and clean environment.

Toys and resources were easily accessible which promoted choice and were based on children's interests. This stimulated, engaged, and challenged children in their play. For example, construction toys, dinosaurs, cars and art and craft materials. Natural and open-ended play materials provided opportunities to extend children's learning and develop problem-solving skills. The childminder should continue to extend open-ended resources to further develop curiosity and challenge children's thinking in the indoor and outdoor environment.

The childminder carried out visual checks prior to children arriving and throughout the course of the day, this helped ensure children were protected from harm, and any measures put in place to keep children safe if required. Written risk assessments for specific areas within the home, garden and for activities and outings were clear and identified actions to be taken to ensure children's continued safety.

Children and their family's personal information was securely stored, and the childminder had registered with the Information Commissioner's Office to protect personal data. This helped protect children and their family's privacy.

How good is our leadership?

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: 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

Clear policies and procedures were in place that supported the childminder to deliver a very good service. These were shared with parents, so they knew what to expect from the service. This contributed to them feeling included and well informed. They were reviewed and updated regularly and reflected current legislation and best practice documents.

The childminder gathered parents' views through feedback questionnaires and informal chats. Trusting relationships and effective communication had supported children and families to feel valued and included in the service. All parents told us they strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, "My child and I are involved in a meaningful way to help develop the service." Comments we received included, "Nancy is very inclusive in asking for feedback frequently on anything we would like her to be doing".

The childminder demonstrated a strong commitment to providing and improving positive outcomes for children. The childminder was motivated about their role and had developed an improvement plan with a focus on improved independence, enhanced communication, supporting transition and increased engagement and learning. We suggested ways to streamline the plan to support the childminder clearly track the success of desired improvements. This would identify gaps in children's experiences, promote sustainable and continuous improvement of the service and help influence and lead positive changes for children.

The childminder had established positive professional links with the local authority and the Scottish Childminding Association. Their partnership with Edinburgh City Council to deliver funded early learning and childcare further enhanced the quality of the service. These collaborative relationships supported ongoing reflection and professional development, contributing to sustained improvements in outcomes for children.

How good is our staff team?**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 4.1: Staff skills, knowledge and values

Children benefitted from the childminder's warm and responsive approach which helped them feel valued and included. Positive relationships had been built with families which supported strong relationships. Parents told us, "We feel truly privileged to be able to count Nancy as a caregiver for our children. She's a really fantastic childminder and we're so glad she's part of our children's lives" and "Nancy is like extended family at this point. We trust her entirely to care for our children and feel safe in the knowledge they are safe, loved and valued".

The childminder held a recognised early learning and childcare qualification and demonstrated a strong commitment to improving their knowledge and skills. Their reflective approach to learning meant their practice remained current and was responsive to children's needs. The childminder recognised the positive impact their own learning could have on the quality of care they provided. This thoughtful approach meant children benefitted from consistent caring support.

The childminder drew on their personal experience and previous career in early education to support the provision of high-quality learning experiences. The childminder had attended a range of training which would support keeping children safe. For example, child protection, first aid and infection prevention and control training. We saw that this had supported the childminder to provide care which promoted children's safety and wellbeing.

A variety of methods were used by the childminder to stay informed about changes in the sector. These included attendance at local childminding groups and updates from the Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA). This helped them to identify new best practice guidance documents and learning opportunities to support their development.

The childminder linked with other local childminders, which helped promote professional discussion of new guidance, challenges, and practice sharing. This encouraged them to reflect on their service and supported them to further develop and enhance children's experiences.

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?	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?	5 - Very Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	5 - Very Good

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