

Eilidhs Childminding Child Minding

Fortrose

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
8 October 2025

Service provided by:
Eilidh MacEachran

Service provider number:
SP2023000084

Service no:
CS2023000126

About the service

Eilidh's Childminding is a childminding service situated in the hamlet of Raddery near to the village of Rosemarkie.

The service is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of six children aged up to 16 years of age.

The service is situated in a rural area near the village of Rosemarkie. The local school, with a nursery, is a short drive away in the village of Avoch. The children are cared for in a kitchen diner, living room, playroom and hallway. They have access to a downstairs room to sleep and a fully enclosed garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Thursday 2 October 2025, between 12:00 and 14:15pm. Feedback was completed on Wednesday 8 October via telephone. 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 to three family members of people using the service;
- spoke with the childminder;
- observed practice and daily experiences;
- 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

- The childminder was warm, kind and caring in her approach.
- The children were happy and relaxed in the childminder's care.
- Children were at the heart of the service and were cared for by a childminder who knew them and their families well.
- The setting provided a true home from home environment, which told children that they were 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

Leadership	4 - Good
Children thrive and develop in quality spaces	4 - Good
Children play and learn	4 - Good
Children are supported to achieve	4 - 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

Information about the service was shared with parents/carers, including aims and objectives, policies and procedures before their child attended. This helped them to understand the childminder's vision and ensured they were well informed about the service they received.

Children and families views were genuinely valued by the childminder. The childminder recognised the value and importance of positive relationships. The views of children and families were sought to support improvements using both informal conversations and the use of questionnaires. This ensured all families were included and had the opportunity to share their views.

The childminder engaged well with the inspection process and was keen to take forward ideas for improvement. Effective self-evaluation and quality assurances were in the early stages of development. The childminder valued the views of the children attending her service, and their families, encouraging both formal and informal feedback through regular conversation and consultation. Parents who gave feedback as part of this inspection, strongly agreed that they were happy with the care and support their child received.

Clear policies and procedures were in place to protect children from harm. The childminder understood the role they played in keeping children safe and would continue to develop this through child protection training.

Regular networking with other local childminders provided opportunities for discussion, learning and sharing good practice. This demonstrated a commitment to provide a high-quality service, to promote positive outcomes for children and families.

Children thrive and develop in quality spaces 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: Children experience high quality spaces

The childminder's home was clean, cosy and child-friendly, providing a homely environment for the children. The childminder's home was relaxed and safe for the children to explore and play allowing them to feel safe and comfortable. The children made use of all the available space and confidently moved around each area of the house. A range of toys were available for the children to choose from inside as well as the outdoor area.

The outdoor area at the rear of the property was fully enclosed, secure and offered children a safe space to play and enjoy fresh air. The all-weather surfaces provided opportunities for active, physical outdoor play all year round. The childminder advised us that the garden area is used daily and the children are mainly outside all day except for nap times.

Risk assessments and safety checks for the home had been carried out. We discussed how the childminder could involve children in developing risk assessments so that they develop their own awareness of managing risk, be responsible and learn about the safety of themselves and others.

Children were kept safe and protected as the service was well maintained and clean. Appropriate infection control procedures were in place to support a safe environment for children and families.

Robust infection prevention and control measures supported children's health and wellbeing. The playroom and equipment were clean and well maintained. For example, children were well supported by the childminder to wash their hands effectively at key times throughout the day. This helped to minimise the spread of infection.

Nappy changing guidance was adhered to and measures were followed to minimise any risk of spread of infection. The child's privacy and dignity was respected and appropriate PPE was used. Both the child and the childminder washed their hands after the procedure. This ensured the health and wellbeing of the children in her care.

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

The childminder demonstrated a very good understanding of children's developmental stages and how to support them. Planning approaches were child-centred and responsive to children's interests and life experiences. The childminder was in the early stages of reflecting on the children's learning and next steps which they were currently sharing with parents in an informal way. The childminder had also taken time to reflect on some daily activities on offer and they included asking the parents of the younger children about activities they enjoyed and what they would like to learn and experience. These were used to plan experiences to support their development.

Children had opportunities to lead their own play and learning in a stimulating environment with a range of resources. They had fun while exploring a variety of play experiences that took account of their developmental needs, interests and curiosities. The children were happy and having fun in the childminder's care. Children confidently led their own play, exploring their interests and curiosities through a range of resources. Indoors, these included small world figures, arts and crafts and loose parts. Resources were accessible, promoting children's independence and allowing them to choose how they spent their time. The pace of the day was relaxed and unhurried, giving the children time to play and learn.

The childminder made good use of the local area. This promoted children's wellbeing and sense of self in their community, for example, they visited the local park, toddler groups and woods in their area. These rich and varied play experiences supported children to develop skills for life.

Children are supported to achieve 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: Nurturing care and support

Children benefited from the warm and nurturing approach of the childminder, who used a calm voice and tone to support the overall wellbeing of the minded child in their care. Their interactions and play were happy and relaxed. The childminder was responsive to the child's needs and requests, supporting them with kindness. They followed the minded child's interests to provide them with opportunities to play and have fun.

From our observations and discussions with the childminder, it was very evident that she knew the children in her care very well which ensured that they were able to respond to their individual care needs. The service had personal plans for each child, which contained relevant background information and details of the child's routine. These were routinely reviewed to ensure that the childminder kept up to date with any change in the child's needs and preferences. This meant children were receiving the appropriate care.

Mealtimes were sociable and relaxed, with varied and nutritious food provided in line with national guidance. They were relaxed and sociable, with children sitting round the kitchen table. The childminder was attentive to children during lunch, engaging them in conversation which supported their developing language and communication skills.

When children required a rest or sleep, arrangements were in place to enable them to have a quiet area away from distractions. This ensured the health and wellbeing of the children in her care.

Whilst no children attending the service required regular medication, we reviewed procedures and paperwork in place. We were satisfied that safe administration of medication procedures were in place to help ensure children's health needs could be met.

Sharing updates and messages helped build positive links between home and the childminder allowing families to feel connected in their child's experiences. Parents told us that their children had the opportunity to play outdoors. One parent said, "I receive updates via What's app on how my child is getting on. We speak all the time there is lots of communication between myself and the childminder". Another parent commented, "lots of communication on a daily basis and the childminder works alongside me and the child's wishes". This supports the families to be valued and this helped to ensure parents were included in their child's care and offered the opportunity to comment and/or make suggestions for improvement.

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

To support children's safety and wellbeing the childminder should ensure that play equipment is used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

"I am protected from harm because people are alert and respond to signs of significant deterioration in my health and wellbeing, that I may be unhappy or at risk of harm". (HSCS 3.21).

This area for improvement was made on 25 October 2024.

Action taken since then

The children no longer use the trampoline in the childminder's garden.

Previous area for improvement 2

To support positive outcomes for children the provider should ensure that robust quality assurance processes are in place.

This should include but is not limited to a system to review personal plans at least every six months to ensure information recorded is current and relevant to meeting children's needs effectively.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

"I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes". (HSCS 4.19).

This area for improvement was made on 25 October 2024.

Action taken since then

Effective self-evaluation and quality assurances were in the early stages of development. The childminder valued the views of the children attending her service, and their families, encouraging both formal and informal feedback through regular conversation and consultation. Parents who gave feedback as part of this inspection, strongly agreed that they were happy with the care and support their child received.

Personal plans were updated every six months to ensure information recorded is current and relevant to meeting children's needs effectively.

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

Leadership	4 - Good
Leadership and management of staff and resources	4 - Good
Children thrive and develop in quality spaces	4 - Good
Children experience high quality spaces	4 - Good
Children play and learn	4 - Good
Playing, learning and developing	4 - Good
Children are supported to achieve	4 - Good
Nurturing care and support	4 - Good

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