

Bell, Yvonne Child Minding

Dumfries

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
27 October 2025

Service provided by:
Yvonne Bell

Service provider number:
SP2003907345

Service no:
CS2003013752

About the service

Yvonne Bell is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any 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 the childminder's family.

Her service is located in a residential area of Dumfries. The childminder provides her service from her home, which has a secure garden to the rear of the property. The childminder's home is within walking distance of schools, shops and parks.

On the day of the inspection, there were two minded children present. The childminder had one assistant present and we met with another assistant during the inspection.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced visit which took place on Wednesday 22 October and Monday 27 October 2025. The inspection was carried out by an 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 attending the service
- spoke with the childminder and her assistants
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents including children's personal plans and learning folders.

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 were cared for in a warm, safe and responsive environment. Strong relationships with families, effective communication and respectful routines ensured that children's wellbeing and development were well supported.
- The childminder planned a range of engaging and meaningful learning experiences which were based on children's interests and seasonal themes. These provided children with a variety of opportunities to learn and develop skills and interests including curiosity, wonder and creativity.
- Children were cared for in a nurturing and well-organised environment, supported by a reflective and committed childminder and her assistants, who worked together to provide high-quality care informed by their ongoing learning and parental feedback.

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

Leadership and management of staff and resources

We evaluated this key question as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children/people and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Children were cared for in a nurturing and supportive environment where they were respected and valued as individuals. The childminder had a clear aims statement which informed parents of what they could expect for their child whilst in her care. She was well supported by her assistants who were fully aware of their roles and responsibilities within the setting. Together they helped to ensure a consistent and responsive approach to children's care.

The childminder was a reflective practitioner who actively kept up to date with changes in practice and was committed to providing high quality care for children and their families. As well as being a member of the Scottish Child Minding Association the childminder made effective use of a variety of professional learning opportunities, including webinars, podcasts and Care Inspectorate practice documents.

Feedback from parents was welcomed through daily chats and questionnaires. We suggested that the childminder may find it more helpful to use open-ended questions focused on specific aspects of her service to gather richer feedback. The childminder used reflective logs to support developments in her service, and we made some suggestions on how these reflections could be used more effectively to inform an improvement plan for the setting.

Children play and learn 4 - Good

Play, learning and developing

We evaluated this key question as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children/people and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Children were having fun as they played, we heard them singing whilst washing cars in the garden. Children were able to choose from a variety of age and stage appropriate toys and resources, both indoors and out. Activities like arts and crafts, literacy, numeracy and imaginative play were well-resourced and encouraged children to develop independence and creativity. Environmental print, like café menus and price lists, helped develop literacy and numeracy in play. Children also had opportunities to grow plants and went on a variety of outings to interesting places like nature walks and parks, which helped support them to learn about the natural world.

Through skilful interactions and the use of resources like books, children were supported to develop life skills like sharing and managing their emotions. The childminder responded to children's needs and respected their right to play, learn and develop. We saw that children were confident about sharing their opinions and making choice.

The warm interactions meant that strong attachments had been formed between the childminder and the children, which supported her to be tuned into their emotions and energy levels. Children's achievements were celebrated and they were supported to develop vocabulary through conversations. We discussed using more open-ended questions to encourage children's creativity, problem solving and deeper thinking skills further.

All children had personal folders which told the story of their learning and development. These provided a lovely record of their time in the childminder's care. Experiences were planned based on the childminder's knowledge of the children, their interests and information shared by parents. The use of observations was developing and currently, these tended to be descriptive and often focused on enjoyment. We discussed how using evaluation to identify next steps could strengthen planning, and suggested a variety of tools to help with this.

Parents told us: "We love that Yvonne has a variety of activities in her home including a great garden area and shed. I don't think a day goes by they don't go outside which I love".

Children are supported to achieve 5 - Very Good

Nurturing Care and Support

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children/people, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

The childminder valued the warm, trusting relationships she had built with children and their families. Children were treated with affection, which helped them to feel safe, secure and valued in the childminder's home. They were encouraged to make choices and develop independence through everyday routines, like putting on their own coats and shoes.

Parents felt confident sharing information and were kept informed through face to face chats, newsletters, texts and messaging apps. A supportive settling in process was in place which helped families to feel comfortable and ensured that children's personal routines were respected. Parents told us "If there is any change in our routine at home Yvonne will take that on board and adjust to that"

The childminder promoted healthy eating and good hygiene practices. Appropriate procedures were in place for medication, infection control and safe sleep. The environment was clean, secure and well-maintained, with children encouraged to tidy up and care for their toys. Risk assessments were clearly documented and we discussed the importance of including children so that they learned how to assess risk for themselves. The childminder was aware of her responsibilities for safeguarding and had enrolled in refresher child protection training, with plans for her assistant to do the same.

All children had personal plans in place which contained the key information needed to support their care. Parents confirmed these were reviewed regularly and we suggested that sitting with parents to discuss changes may strengthen the process. Plans contained a diary which recorded reviews and updates, and we suggested that these could be used to log significant events which may help to identify patterns. Whilst no accidents or incidents had occurred recently, there were appropriate procedures in place.

Parents felt well connected to the setting and welcomed into the childminder's home, with strong relationships built on trust and open communication. Regular daily conversations supported a partnership feeling. Children benefited from regular opportunities to explore the local community, and this helped to create a sense of belonging and understanding of the world around them.

Parents told us that they thought the childminder was "friendly, welcoming and approachable. She communicates well, understands family life is changeable and at times childminding requires change and she is flexible." They also said "I'm really chuffed with the kind, flexible, reliable, organised childminding service they provide for my child.

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 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

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

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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.