

Doig, Alice Child Minding

Burntisland

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
29 October 2025

Service provided by:
Alice Doig

Service provider number:
SP2008969634

Service no:
CS2008175010

About the service

Alice Doig provides a childminding service from her property in Burntisland. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of six children under the age of 16 years. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family.

The service is close to local amenities, school and park. The children are cared for and have access to a dedicated playroom, lounge, kitchen and toilet. Children also have access to an enclosed garden to the rear of the property.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 23 October 2025 between 09:50 and 11:20 and on 28 October 2025 between 14:30 and 16:00. Feedback was given to the childminder on 29 October 2025 at 13:00. This 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 and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year. To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke/spent time with four people using the service
- received 6 completed questionnaires
- spoke with the childminder
- assessed core assurances, including the physical environment
- 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

- The childminder was experienced and confident within their role and cared deeply about children and families using the service.
- Children experienced a stimulating environment with a variety of resources that supported their play and learning.
- The childminder was responsive to the children's needs and requests, supporting them with kindness.
- The childminder had developed strong connections with families, creating a warm and welcoming environment for children and parents.
- Children's wellbeing was supported through effective personal planning approaches.

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	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.

Leadership and management of staff and resources.

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

Information about the service was shared with families, including aims and objectives before their child attended. This helped them to understand the childminder's vision and ensured they were well informed about the service they received. Clear policies and procedures were in place to protect children from harm. The childminder understood the role they played in keeping children safe.

The childminder was experienced and confident within their role and cared deeply about children and families using the service. The childminder had identified areas that would benefit from being further developed, such as, developing the outdoor area. Families shared "Alice often runs things by us and would accept feedback from us" and "We have good communication and I feel I can discuss anything that arises".

While self-evaluation was at an early stage, the childminder demonstrated a clear understanding of its importance. The childminder had started to consider how this would be embedded using the new "A quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding". Engaging in regular self-evaluation and quality assurance processes would support continuous improvement and help promote positive outcomes for children and families (**see area for improvement 1**).

Areas for improvement

1. To support high quality outcomes and experiences for children, the childminder should develop effective quality assurance practices to identify and inform improvements.

This should include but is not limited to:

- a) be familiar with and use current guidance to support their practice
- b) ongoing self-evaluation against current guidance to identify areas for improvement to promote high quality outcomes for children and families
- c) regularly gather the views of parents/carers and children to help promote meaningful engagement and identify areas for improvement.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

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.

Playing, learning and developing.

Children experienced a stimulating environment with a variety of resources that supported their play and learning. They were observed to lead their own play confidently, exploring interests and curiosities through accessible materials. Indoor resources included small world figures, arts and crafts, and games, which promoted independence and choice. The childminder responded to children's interests by providing additional resources linked to festivals and celebrations. This included opportunities for children to make 'spooky spells' and write themed stories, which promoted imaginative play and literacy skills. The pace of the day was relaxed and unhurried. This meant that children were engaged meaningfully in play and learning activities.

Children experienced a balance of free play and adult-led activities within the childminder's home. They were observed making choices and engaging in activities that reflected their interests. The childminder demonstrated effective practice in supporting children's play and learning. They actively modelled activities, provided a wide range of resources, and offered consistent praise and encouragement. This approach was highly successful in sustaining engagement and promoting play.

Children were further supported to develop individual achievement folders, which contained drawings and other work. These folders provided meaningful opportunities for children to revisit and reflect on their progress. This practice was effective in fostering a strong sense of pride and accomplishment. As a result, children were confident and eager to share their achievements.

The childminder supported children's communication and language through attentive interactions and sensitive conversations. They used strategies such as wondering aloud and allowing time for children to respond to questions and discussions. This approach encouraged language development and supported children to build confidence in expressing themselves.

The childminder shared photos of children's experiences through digital messages, including contributions from home learning, which strengthened family engagement. To strengthen children's involvement, we encouraged the childminder to offer opportunities for children to plan their experiences and contribute their own thoughts. This would enhance recognition of their learning, support planning of next steps and further promote their interests through planning experiences they enjoy.

Children had opportunities to play outdoors. While the enclosed rear garden was not used during the inspection, children spoke positively about visits to the local park. These outings supported children's health, wellbeing and connection to their community. One family shared "Trips to the parks/ beach/ surrounding areas, especially in the summer/ better weather which the kids enjoy".

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.

Nurturing care and support.

Children were happy in the childminder's care. They 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 children in their care. The childminder was responsive to the children's needs and requests, supporting them with kindness. Families shared "Alice has always been approachable and accommodating. She is friendly and we have developed a good relationship over the years" and "Alice is extremely friendly and approachable. She always goes above and beyond for the children and always communicates well with any decisions or changes she's thinking of making".

The childminder had developed strong connections with families, creating a warm and welcoming environment for children and parents. The home from home experience provided was valued by families. Regular communication with families through daily updates and verbal feedback supported parents to be included in and informed about their child's care. A family shared "The children are happy spending time with Alice- they take part in a range of activities which they enjoy. There is good communication from Alice".

Children's wellbeing was supported through effective personal planning approaches. Important information was gathered, which helped the childminder to meet children's needs and preferences. Plans were reviewed with parents, which supported them to understand the care provided and enabled them to have input into their child's care. We discussed how the childminder could further record the children's thoughts and views. Although plans were reviewed there is a need to review these on a more regular basis to ensure that children's health and wellbeing needs were continually being met **(see area for improvement 1)**.

Mealtimes were calm and unhurried, creating a positive and sociable experience for children. Snacks reflected children's choices and preferences, which supported their independence inclusion. Children sat together at the table, which promoted meaningful interactions with peers, promoting social development. The childminder engaged children in conversations about the snacks and healthy eating, which effectively supported their understanding of nutritious choices. As a result, children developed their social skills and increased their understanding of healthy eating choices.

Areas for improvement

1. The childminder should develop the use of children's personal plans which should include the views of children and families and take account of the wellbeing indicators. These should be reviewed at least every six months.

This is to ensure I experience high quality care and support that is right for me and is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'My personal plan is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices.' (HSCS 1.15).

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

The childminder should further develop her complaint procedure to include the timescale she would inform parents of any complaint and any action she intended to take.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that service users experience high quality care based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice. (HSCS 4.11)

This area for improvement was made on 12 November 2018.

Action taken since then

The childminder has updated the complaints procedure to clearly outline the timescales for responding to complaints and the actions that will be taken.

This area for improvement has been met.

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	4 - Good
Nurturing care and support	4 - Good

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