

Brown, Elaine Child Minding

Blairgowrie

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
13 November 2025

Service provided by:
Elaine Brown

Service provider number:
SP2007966024

Service no:
CS2007157430

About the service

Brown, Elaine is a registered childminding service provided by Elaine Brown. The service is delivered from the childminder's home within Blairgowrie, Perthshire. Children have access to the ground floor of the home which includes a living room, kitchen dining space, hallway, toilet and direct access to an enclosed rear garden. A sleep space is also available upstairs within the home.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 5 children at any one time under the age of 16 of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Thursday 13 November 2025 between 09.30 and 12:45. Two inspectors carried out the inspection 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 with one child using the service;
- spoke with the childminder;
- received feedback from five families;
- observed practice and children's experiences; and
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- The childminder had established strong working relationships with families which contributed to positive outcomes.
- The childminder used effective self-evaluation to identify and act on improvements, resulting in high quality care, play and learning for children.
- Quality assurance processes were supporting the childminder to deliver a high quality service.
- The childminder was passionate, professional and was committed to her own professional development. This supported the childminder to deliver a service which was in line with best practice.
- Kind, caring and nurturing interactions had been formed between the childminder and families which supported a happy and relaxed service.

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

Quality Indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources

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.

The childminder demonstrated strong commitment to the vision, values and aims of their service. They spoke about these passionately and showed clear understanding of their importance. The vision focused on creating a warm, safe, happy and secure home-from-home environment. These aims were evident in daily practice and reflected the actions and responses of the childminder. As a result, the child felt safe, valued and emotionally secure, which promoted confidence and well-being.

The childminder built strong and positive relationships with children and their families. They actively engaged with families and showed genuine interest in their lives and needs. Five parents shared views and strongly agreed they had good relationships with the childminder. Families described the childminder as helpful, supportive and a great listener who understood their circumstances. One family told us Elaine offers support, creating trust between herself, children and families. As a result, children felt secure and confident, which supported emotional well-being and positive development.

Regular information sharing took place through message functions and daily conversations with families. For example, children's photographs, experiences and learning were shared on a regular basis.

The childminder showed genuine passion and strong commitment to her role. They welcomed the inspection process and feedback, demonstrating a proactive approach to improvement. An improvement plan was in place to enhance the service, including identified improvements such as ongoing development within the garden area. A quality assurance system was used through a diary to monitor and record key information. We encouraged the childminder to include areas such as accidents, incidents and daily safety checks into their logs. Through the childminder's systems, approach and dedication, children benefited from a safe, well-maintained environment that supported their health and overall experience.

Children benefited from a childminder who was motivated, committed and dedicated to continuous improvement. Families told us "Elaine gathered our views on her service and regularly asks us how we feel and if anything could be improved" and "We write on post it notes to give feedback". Overall, these approaches supported very good practice in leadership and continuous improvement.

The childminder was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and had built relationships with other local childminders. This provided opportunities to share ideas and collate suggestions around the delivery of her service.

The childminder had clear policies and procedures that supported delivery of a very good service. These were shared with parents, ensuring they understood what to expect from the service. This approach helped families feel included and well informed about care and routines. The childminder agreed to continue reviewing policies in line with guidance and best practice. We encouraged the childminder to start referencing relevant guidance within updated policies to strengthen the openness. As a result, children experienced consistent, safe care within a well-managed and transparent service.

Children play and learn 5 - Very Good**Quality Indicator: Play learning and developing**

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.

The childminder provided a stimulating environment that supported children's play and learning. They 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 observed the child having fun as they experienced a range of play, learning and development opportunities. They were confident in their environment and effective questioning took place during play experiences. For example, the childminder was discussing colours, shapes and sizes with the child.

The childminder regularly shared children's play and learning with parents. Scrap books were in place and included photos, links to the wellbeing indicators and a range of experiences. Engaging families in the service ensured they felt included in their children's childminding experience. The planning and management of different age groups was not observed directly, but evidence confirmed that children of varying ages were supported to learn through play. One family told us, "Our child has benefited from being able to play, learn and develop from the childminder's wealth of early years experience."

Children enjoyed outings to a variety of places in the local and wider community. For example, visits to playgroup, parks and local facilities were regularly provided. These helped support children to progress, develop a broad range of lifelong learning skills and connections with their community. Families told us "Elaine will change toys to meet the children's interests. They visit the library for bookbug and playgroup sessions, which the children love". And "My child regularly attends playgroup, playdates and bookbug sessions, this provides the social communication and language skills which he needs".

Children are supported to achieve 5 - Very Good**Quality Indicator: Nurturing care and support**

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.

The childminder consistently provided a nurturing environment and demonstrated strong knowledge of the children in their care. Children's needs, wellbeing, and safety were always prioritised through daily routines and attentive practice. Comprehensive policies were in place and aligned with Care Inspectorate guidance, ensuring high standards were maintained. For example, the childminder followed safe sleep practices as outlined in national guidance. One parent told us, "Elaine was confident in sharing best sleep practice and supported me to meet my child's wellbeing needs." As a result, children experienced a safe, caring environment that promoted their health, comfort, and emotional security.

Children's needs were clearly documented in personal plans, which reflected dietary requirements, interests, and development needs. Plans were shared with families and updated regularly to ensure they remained accurate and relevant. The childminder worked collaboratively with parents, supporting planning and delivering individualised care. Families told us, "Elaine always kept us updated with our child's developments while in her care." Another parent said, "Elaine regularly updated my child's personal plan, including formal updates and changes to routines." As a result, children received consistent, tailored care that supported their progress and wellbeing.

Spaces across the home were well organised and supported care routines effectively. Designated areas for play, meals, and rest ensured children's needs were met throughout the day. Snack time was unhurried and relaxed, creating opportunities for positive, social interaction with the childminder. Nappy changing was carried out respectfully, maintaining privacy and dignity at all times. Infection prevention and control was considered, and the childminder used PPE appropriately. This minimised the risk of infection and ensured children remained safe, healthy, and comfortable in their environment.

The childminder appeared confident in recognising possible signs of abuse and had a good understanding of the processes to follow if they had any concerns about a child. This knowledge supported the childminder to keep children safe from harm or abuse.

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	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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