

Williamson, Louise

Child Minding

Edinburgh

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
30 October 2025

Service provided by:
Louise Williamson

Service provider number:
SP2009974267

Service no:
CS2009228244

About the service

Louise Williamson is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of four will be under 12, 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 children of the childminder's family. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.

The service is provided from the childminders home in a residential area of the Portobello area of Edinburgh.

Children had access to dedicated play room for children. There is a safely fenced garden to the rear of the house.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 27 October 2025 between 12:00 and 13:45 and an announced visit on 30 October 2025. 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:

- spent time with children using the service
- received three completed questionnaires from parents
- 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, improvements were identified relating to core assurances. We have reported where improvement is necessary within Leadership and Nurturing care and support.

During this inspection we 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 benefitted from a positive relationship with the childminder.
- Parents gave positive feedback about the care their child received.
- Children had opportunities to experience a range of activities.
- The childminder must ensure that personal plans are in place for all children.

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	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
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 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

Quality Indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources

We evaluated this quality indicator as satisfactory/adequate, where strengths just outweigh weakness.

The aims of the service and policies were shared with parents. This helped parents to know what to expect for their children and to understand the service provided. We discussed with the childminder some policies that needed to be updated, for example the Working in Partnership policy to ensure that clear and accurate information is shared.

The childminder had built positive relationships with children and families, this contributed to families being involved in initiating change within the service. Parents told us "I have a great relationship with the childminder" and "the childminder is approachable".

The childminder was able to discuss improvements that had been made to the service. These had enhanced play experiences for children. For example, the introduction of loose parts in the garden and providing more interesting resources in the tuff tray. Formal self evaluation for improvement was not yet in place. We discussed with the childminder ways in which they could formalise their self-evaluation to ensure that sustained improvements are made.

The childminder had attended training to improve her knowledge. This included training in safeguarding and First Aid, this contributed to keeping children safe. The childminder told us they intended to complete further training and was looking into an early learning and childcare qualification, this would contribute to increasing their knowledge and improving outcomes for children.

Someone within the childminder's home has turned 16 years of age, this requires a Level 2 Disclosure to be completed. A form has been sent to the childminder, but not yet been returned as requested. The childminder must ensure that this is returned to ensure the safety of children.

Although the childminder knew the children well and could speak confidently about their individual needs and routines, personal plans were not in place for all children. Current legislation requires that personal plans are in place for every child to ensure their care, support and wellbeing needs are consistently planned for and reviewed. (See requirement one).

Requirements

1. By the 01 January 2026, the childminder must ensure that personal plans are in place for every child. Personal plans must clearly set out how the service will meet each child's health, welfare and safety needs. Plans must be reviewed with parents at least every six months, or sooner if a child's needs change, to ensure information remains current and supports consistent, responsive care.

This is to comply with Regulations 4(1)(a) and 5(1) & (2) of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

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

state that: 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care 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).

Children play and learn 4 - Good

Quality indicator: Playing, learning and developing

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.

The childminder had a good understanding of how young children learn and grow. This helped create interesting and fun play opportunities. Children took part in a variety of well-planned and social activities. For example, attending toddler groups, the library and trips to the museum enabled them to build social skills and explore the world around them.

Children benefitted from opportunities to be involved in activities in the outdoors, planting flowers and vegetables, composting food, going to the local woods to look for birds and wildlife. Attentive interactions and a sensitive approach to conversations supported children's communication and language. For example, the childminder reminded the children about when they had taken their binoculars to the woods and asked if they remembered what they had looked for. Children told us about using their binoculars to look for birds. This approach helped to foster children's vocabulary and build their confidence in communication.

Play experiences in the childminder's home were a balance of free play and adult-led activities. This meant that children's choices were respected and their interests were nurtured. During the inspection, children engaged in role play at the shop and played outside in the tuff tray. Children were enabled to explore and learn as the childminder engaged with them and modelled play. Parents were positive about the activities their children were offered.

A floor book was in place and showed a range of experiences that children had been involved in. The childminder had recently begun recording observations with identified next steps to support children's learning. These were linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is the statutory framework used in England. We discussed the Scottish Frameworks, such as Realising the Ambition and Pre-birth to three and advised that future observations should be linked to Scottish guidance.

Children are supported to achieve 4 - Good

Quality Indicator: Nurturing care and support

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.

The childminder understood the importance of nurturing relationships for children's growth and development. As a result, children experienced, warm consistent and responsive care that supported their wellbeing. All parents said that they had a good relationship with the childminder and that they knew their child well.

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 photographs and verbal feedback at the end of the day

kept parents informed about their child's care. Parents told us that they had regular opportunities to discuss their child's care, development and learning.

Parents provided meals for their child and the childminder provided snacks. One parent said that they would prefer less sugary snacks, we signposted the childminder to Setting the Table (Scottish Government 2024). This would support them to ensure that snacks are aligned with current dietary guidelines.

Parents told us that, "The childminder knows my child well and supports their development". However, one parent told us that they do not have a personal plan for their child. Although the childminder knew the children well and could speak confidently about their individual needs and routines, personal plans were not in place for all children.

Although the lack of personal plans did not directly impact on the care of the child, legislation requires that all children have personal plans in place. A requirement has been made under Leadership with regard to this.

An area for improvement at the previous inspection asked the childminder to develop her understanding of the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators and use these to support tracking of children's development. This had not yet been progressed. To ensure that children experience care and support that promotes their wellbeing this area for improvement is carried forward into this report and now aligns with the Health and Social Care Standards (See area for improvement one).

Areas for improvement

1. The childminder should increase her knowledge of the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators to ensure that children experience care and support that promotes their wellbeing.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'My care and support meets my needs and is right for me (HSCS 1.19).

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 increase her knowledge of the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators and begin to use these in tracking children's development.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 4 - Engaging with children.

This area for improvement was made on 12 October 2017.

Action taken since then

The childminder had not yet put this in place. We discussed how they could use the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators and use these to link to children's observations. We have rewritten the area for improvement to ensure that it is aligned with the current Health and Social Care Standards.

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	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Leadership and management of staff and resources	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
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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