

Iona's Childminding Child Minding

Dunfermline

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
25 November 2025

Service provided by:
Iona Welshman

Service provider number:
SP2014986320

Service no:
CS2014331127

About the service

Iona's Childminding is provided by Iona Welshman. The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own children. The childminding service is provided from their property in a quiet, residential area of Dunfermline.

The service is close to local primary schools, shops, parks and other amenities. The children are cared for downstairs and use the living room and kitchen. They have access to a bathroom upstairs. The garden to the rear of the property is easily accessed from the living room.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 20 November 2025 between 10:20 and 11:00 and 24 November 2025 between 13:15 and 14:50. 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, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection. In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with one child using the service
- received feedback from one family
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and children's 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 tailored their service to meet the individual needs of children and families.
- The minded child enjoyed playful, responsive interactions filled with fun, joy and laughter.
- The minded child had good opportunities to develop a range of skills through a variety of play experiences.
- The childminder worked in partnership with families to support children's routines, interests, and development.

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

The aims of the service reflected the childminder's vision, values and approach to care and were embedded in everyday life of the setting. They had a focus on providing positive outcomes for children and families.

The childminder personalised and tailored their service to meet the individual needs of children and families. They were responsive to children and families ideas and feedback and used this to inform change. To further support the progress and development of their service, we suggested they review 'A quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding' to help evaluate their service.

The childminder had reflected on their practice and identified areas for development within the service. They planned to make improvements to the garden to enhance play and learning experiences for children. Family feedback was positive and strongly agreed they were meaningfully involved in helping to develop the service.

Families would benefit from policies being updated and more accessible. This would help them to understand what to expect from the service and strengthen transparency.

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

The minded child enjoyed playful, responsive interactions filled with fun, joy and laughter. They were actively involved in leading their play and as a result, were happy and engaged. They were able to play and learn at their own pace as the childminder recognised when to interact and when to give them time and space to play alone.

Family feedback about play experiences was positive. They told us, "Iona always plans fun activities which helps [my child] to develop different skills." The minded child had good opportunities to develop a range of skills such as creativity, literacy and imagination through a variety of play experiences. Their interests and ideas were well considered and reflected in the resources available. This meant they experienced play opportunities which were personalised and tailored to their individual interests. To further enhance their play and learning experiences, there was scope to increase the range of open ended materials and loose parts to promote curiosity, inquiry and problem solving.

Regular observations of children's development were recorded and used to help identify next steps in learning. The childminder recognised children would benefit from more challenging play opportunities. We discussed approaches to extend learning including the use of planned experiences. Children's progress was regularly shared with families which enabled them to celebrate achievements.

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

The minded child experienced warm, kind and fun interactions which helped them to feel relaxed and supported positive relationships. Family feedback was very positive about the relationships they had built with the childminder. They told us, "Iona is a loving, caring person and treats [my child] and us as a part of the family".

The childminder provided responsive care and ensured that routines such as mealtimes and nap times were individualised. This meant children experienced continuity and consistency of care. Mealtimes were a positive, social experience as the childminder took time to chat and connect with the minded child. Handwashing did not take place directly before eating which increased the potential risk of infection. To support children's health, the childminder should ensure children are consistently supported to wash their hands at key times in line with guidance.

Children and families experienced a warm and welcoming environment. Regular communication with families took place through informal daily updates and sharing of photographs and messages, which helped them to feel involved in their child's experiences. This contributed to families feeling valued and reassured that their child was happy and well cared for.

The childminder worked in partnership with families to support children's routines, interests, and development. They childminder recognised the importance of smooth transitions between settings and shared information with families in a sensitive way which supported children's emotional wellbeing. Personal plans contained important information about children's individual strengths, needs and interests. It was unclear if personal plans had been fully reviewed. We asked that the childminder reviewed all information with families to ensure they had up to date details to meet children's needs.

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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