

Victoria Watson Childminding Child Minding

Dunfermline

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
12 January 2026

Service provided by:
Victoria Watson

Service provider number:
SP2014986582

Service no:
CS2014334045

About the service

Victoria Watson provides a childminding service from their property in a quiet residential area of Dunfermline. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of six children up to 16 years of age. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own children.

The service is close to local primary schools, shops, parks and other amenities. The children are cared for in the living room, playroom and kitchen. They have access to a downstairs toilet and enclosed garden to the rear of the property.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 8 January 2026 between 12:50 and 14:50 and 9 January 2026 between 12:00 and 13:30. 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 three children using the service
- spoke with one family
- received feedback from three families
- 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

- A culture of continuous improvement had been embedded within the service.
- Children experienced interactions which were genuinely warm and nurturing.
- High quality interactions supported children's progress and development.
- Children experienced relaxed and sociable mealtimes. They were offered nutritious, home cooked meals which supported them to be healthy.
- Children experienced a variety of fun and exciting play opportunities both at the childminder's home and in the community.

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

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.

Leadership and management of staff and resources

The vision, values and aims were embedded in the everyday life of the service. The childminder was passionate about developing positive attachments and child led play. This was reflected within the ethos and daily practice which supported positive outcomes for children. We discussed involving children and families in reviewing the vision, values and aims to ensure they felt included and their views reflected.

Well considered self evaluation enabled the childminder to deliver high quality care and learning. Children and families feedback was genuinely valued by the childminder. They had opportunities to suggest improvements, for example through questionnaires and daily discussions. The childminder listened to feedback and used this to inform change. Families were very positive about the experiences their children received and felt fully involved in developing the setting in a meaningful way.

A culture of continuous improvement had been embedded within the service. Focused and realistic improvement priorities had been identified and were tailored towards the needs of children and families. The childminder's professional approach and commitment to improvement ensured children experienced consistently high quality experiences.

Children play and learn 5 - Very Good

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.

Playing, learning and developing

A strong focus on children's right to play and a responsive approach to planning enabled children to make informed choices and learn at their own pace. They experienced fun and joy as they played with each other and the childminder. High quality interactions supported children's progress and development. For example, the childminder used concepts such as commenting and explaining which helped to develop children's communication skills and understanding. They interacted and explored with children in a way which helped to build vocabulary, foster understanding and create a sense of wonder about the world.

Children experienced a variety of fun and exciting play opportunities both at the childminder's home and in the community. For example, they enjoyed reading stories with the childminder, had opportunities to build dens in the woods and regularly visited parks. To enhance children's experiences, they would benefit from more open ended, natural materials and loose parts play to spark curiosity and imagination.

The childminder had a very good understanding of children's development and provided effective support to meet their needs and to help them achieve. This included approaches such as noticing and responding to children's patterns of play and supporting their development of self-regulation and confidence through fun play experiences.

Observations of children's play enabled the childminder to identify their progress. The childminder had identified that some learning journals could be updated to reflect children's current achievements. We discussed ways they could do this with children to provide further opportunities for them to reflect on play experiences and consolidate their learning. Families told us they were well informed about their child's achievements. They were involved in identifying children's next steps which helped them to feel included.

Children are supported to achieve 5 - Very Good

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.

Nurturing care and support

Children experienced interactions which were genuinely warm and nurturing. The childminder had a very good understanding of the importance of nurturing relationships to support children to grow and develop. They were consistently down at children's level and engaged with them in a positive, kind and caring manner. This helped children to feel safe, respected and loved. Families were very positive about the care and support their children received. They told us the childminder was "very attentive" and "kind and caring".

The childminder knew children very well which enabled them to tailor children's care to be individualised. This meant that children experienced care which was right for them. Personal plans were in place which supported the childminder to provide consistency of care. Children's home routines were well considered and planned for and as a result, children were provided with a home from home experience.

Children benefited from a childminder who had a strong understanding of attachment theory. They effectively used their knowledge to create personalised and supportive transitions. This included visits to children in their own homes when settling in to help them build trust and feel safe with the childminder.

Children experienced relaxed and sociable mealtimes. They were offered nutritious, home cooked meals which supported them to be healthy. Children's dietary needs were well managed which helped to keep them safe. Children had opportunities to develop independence and be involved in creating meals. They particularly enjoyed creating names for the different meals. Children were effectively supported by the childminder during mealtimes, for example, learning to use cutlery. As a result, they developed life skills and experienced a sense of success and achievement.

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

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 càinain eile ma nithear iarrtas.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلؤں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جا سکتی ہے۔

ਬਿਨਤੀ '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.