

Roy, Caroline Child Minding

Dunfermline

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
21 January 2026

Service provided by:
Caroline Roy

Service provider number:
SP2003904314

Service no:
CS2003007332

About the service

Caroline Roy 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 seven 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 downstairs and make use of the living room, kitchen and dining room. Children also have access to a bathroom upstairs and an enclosed rear garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 20 January 2026 between 12:45 and 14:55. 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 two children using the service
- received feedback from five 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

- Children experienced warm and responsive care which helped them to feel happy and relaxed.
- Children had fun and were engaged in a variety of play experiences which enabled them to develop a broad range of skills.
- Children experienced exciting opportunities to explore the local and wider community and learn about the world around them.
- Children experienced relaxed and unhurried mealtimes. They were offered nutritious food choices and had opportunities for independence.
- Self-evaluation and improvement planning was well considered and supported the childminder to reflect on practice to enhance outcomes for 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	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 childminder promoted a happy, inclusive and child led environment. The vision, values and aims were embedded in the everyday life of the setting and informed daily practice. As a result, children and families experienced positive outcomes. The childminder was very reflective and considered the needs of children and families. For example, they provided a summarised version of the service's policies to make them more accessible and easier to understand. This helped families to feel informed and have clear expectations of the service.

Children and families benefitted from a childminder who valued their feedback and thoughtfully considered how they could be involved in influencing change within the setting. Both informal conversations and formal methods such as questionnaires enabled families to share their ideas and suggestions to support improvement. All families agreed and strongly agreed that they were involved in a meaningful way to help develop the service.

Self-evaluation and improvement planning was well considered and supported the childminder to reflect on practice to enhance outcomes for children. For example, they had identified ways to offer more nutritious food choices in line with current guidance, which supported children's health and wellbeing. The childminder's commitment to continuous improvement ensured children experienced consistently high quality care, play and learning.

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

Children had fun and were engaged in a variety of different play experiences such as imaginative and creative play. For example, they enjoyed mark making and creating bird feeders. These opportunities enabled children to develop a broad range of skills such as fine motor skills. Children were given time, space and support to follow their interests. The childminder was responsive to their cues and interests and offered opportunities for them to explore, practice new skills and consolidate their learning without directing their play.

The childminder had a very good understanding of the value of play and how this supported children to develop skills for life and learning. For example, children were well supported by the childminder to develop their early language and communication skills through quality interactions such as commenting on their play and singing. The childminder recognised the benefits of children having opportunities to socialise with each other. One family told us, "[My child] enjoys playing with all the other children of different ages". This enabled children to develop friendships and build social skills which impacted positively on their wellbeing and learning.

Children experienced a very good balance of planned and responsive play. Families told us, "Time is taken to plan meaningful and relevant learning. The children have fun!" and "She does great activities that are both fun and educational." A particular strength of the service was the wide variety of exciting opportunities children experienced in the local and wider community. This included adventures days to parks, castles, woods and the beach which offered children opportunities to explore, investigate and learn about the world around them.

Children's progress and successes were shared with families. 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.

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 warm and responsive care which helped them to feel happy and relaxed. They had developed strong attachments with the childminder where they felt safe, secure and loved. Children told us, "I really like Caroline. She is taking good care of us" and "She is kind and helpful and has lots of fun ideas. I wouldn't want to not go." Families were very positive about the care their children received. Their comments included, "Caroline is very welcoming and kind" and "I completely trust her with the care of my children who she genuinely cares about".

Daily routines such as personal care and mealtimes were well considered and provided opportunities to connect with children and support their growth and development. Children experienced relaxed and unhurried mealtimes which meant they could eat at a pace which was right for them. They were offered nutritious food choices in line with current guidance which supported them to be healthy. Children had opportunities to be involved in preparing meals and snacks which helped them to develop life skills and independence.

The childminder knew children and their families very well. One family told us, "She knows their likes and dislikes and can tell when something is off or if they are sad. She is like family and I value her so much." Personal plans were in place to support children's care. The childminder had identified these could be further developed. They were in the process of implementing new personal plans to gather more detailed information and provide opportunities for children to be involved. Families had regular opportunities to discuss their child's care and development. They told us they were happy with the communication and felt well informed.

Transitions were tailored to meet each child's needs. This meant the children experienced smooth transitions which helped them to feel safe and secure. The varied age groups of children positively impacted on transitions as older children supported younger children.

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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