

Alissa's Childminding Child Minding

St. Andrews

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
13 January 2026

Service provided by:
Alissa Orr

Service provider number:
SP2019990998

Service no:
CS2019378432

About the service

Alissa Orr provides a childminding service from their semi-detached property in the village of Leuchars, Fife. 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 family.

The service is close to local amenities, school and park. Children have access to the lounge, playroom, kitchen and bathroom facilities. There is a large, enclosed garden suitable for outdoor play.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 8 January 2026 between 13:00 and 14:30. 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:

- observed one child using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- 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, no improvements were identified relating to core assurances.

Key messages

- Children benefitted from a nurturing, respectful environment where care was at the heart of practice.
- The minded child was observed to be happy and enjoying their time with the childminder.
- The childminder should further develop their approach to self-evaluation and improvement systems to allow them to revisit and reflect what worked well.
- Children experienced good use of the local community to extend learning opportunities.
- Planning approaches were based on children's interests and curiosities. The childminder should review how she records children's learning and use this to effectively plan future experiences and next steps.

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

We evaluated this quality indicator as satisfactory/adequate where strengths just outweighed the weaknesses.

Leadership and management of staff and resources

Children benefitted from a nurturing, respectful environment where care was at the heart of daily practice. Actively involving children and families in shaping the service's vision, values, and aims would deepen their sense of belonging and strengthen relationships. This collaborative approach would support the service to remain responsive to their changing needs.

The childminder created a warm and welcoming environment where children felt safe, loved, and secure. Families were kept updated and informed through daily conversations and messaging, including photos. The childminder valued children's and families' views and sought their feedback through ongoing informal discussions. To make the feedback even more useful in the future, the childminder should review feedback opportunities and focus more closely on specific areas they wish to improve. This would help ensure that any changes made are based on what matters most to children and families.

The childminder had previously reflected on what was working well and reviewing their practice. Self-evaluation and quality assurance had been recognised as a current area for development within the service. With the introduction of more structured approaches and formal self-evaluation the childminder would be well placed to strengthen improvement planning. We suggested to the childminder to review the new framework; 'A quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding' to support the progress and development of their service (see area for improvement one).

The childminder engaged positively with the inspection process, demonstrating a welcoming attitude and a willingness to respond to questions that supported the evaluation of the service. A sample of policies were reviewed as part of the inspection. We identified some policies and procedures had not been reviewed to ensure they reflected current best practice. Establishing a routine for reviewing and updating policies would further support consistency and reinforce high-quality care.

One requirement from the previous inspection had not yet been completed. This requirement will be carried on and assessed at the next inspection. Please see 'What the service has done to meet any requirements made at or since the last inspection' section.

Areas for improvement

1. To improve outcomes for children, self-evaluation should be developed, including meaningfully involving children and families. The childminder should become familiar with best practice guidance and use this to support them to reflect and plan for continuous improvement.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standard (HSCS) which states that: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

Children play and learn 4 - Good

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where there were important strengths within the settings' work and some aspects which could benefit from improvement.

Playing, learning and developing

The minded child was observed to be happy and enjoying their time with the childminder. They had opportunities which met their developmental needs, interests, and curiosities. These experiences offered the child play and learning which included exploring and problem solving. As a result, the child was engaged in their play.

Play and learning was child led. We saw that the minded child was able to choose from toys and resources and were engaged in their chosen play activities. The childminder was playful in her interactions; she took time to listen to the minded child and picked up on their nonverbal cues. Her enabling attitude supported the child to explore and shape their play. These sensitive interactions reflected a good understanding.

Planning approaches were informal and based on children's interests and curiosities. The childminder used photographs to share children's experiences with families, promoting positive parental engagement. While planning was responsive and child-centred, there were limited systems in place to evaluate children's progress and plan meaningful next steps. To further enhance this approach, we discussed the value of strengthening observation and recording practices to support the childminder to effectively identify and respond to children's learning needs (see area for improvement one).

Children developed a range of skills through everyday experiences. The childminder made good use of the local community to extend learning opportunities, which helped children to become familiar with their wider world and supported their social development.

Areas for improvement

1. To improve outcomes for children, the childminder should develop appropriate systems to record and review children's learning and development. The childminder should use this knowledge to support children's next steps and extend their experiences.

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

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 childminder demonstrated warm, responsive, and nurturing care. Interactions were sensitive and attuned to the child's needs, with the childminder engaging at the child's level to promote a sense of safety and comfort. Non-verbal cues were recognised and responded to sensitively. The child was observed seeking reassurance and support confidently, indicating a secure and trusting relationship. This positive connection supported the child's emotional wellbeing and contributed to their overall development.

Children's wellbeing was supported through the childminder's knowledge of their individual needs. Personal plans were in place for each child, which contained basic information about children such as family contact details, emergency contacts and medical needs. These had been completed when children started at the service. We reminded the childminder of their duty to ensure personal plans were reviewed and updated now they are using technology to gather this information. The childminder used their knowledge of children's individual needs and warm interactions to provide care which was consistent with strategies used from home.

The childminder told us how children slept when in the service. Safe sleep practices were followed in line with current guidance. The sleep environment was calm and hygienic. Parents were kept informed of sleep routines, contributing to a strong sense of trust and partnership.

The use of WhatsApp provided families with instant updates which was a positive aspect of the service. This promoted effective communication and strengthened relationships.

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Requirements

Requirement 1

With immediate effect, to ensure children are safeguarded, the childminder must ensure that relevant insurance coverage and documents are in place and can be accessed during operating hours.

This is in order to comply with Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011/210. Regulation 4(1)(a) - Welfare of users;

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which state: 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice' (HSCS 4.11).

This requirement was made on 9 November 2023.

Action taken on previous requirement

The childminder had relevant insurance coverage and documents in place which were accessible during the inspection.

The requirement has been met.

Met - within timescales

Requirement 2

With immediate effect, to ensure children are effectively safeguarded, the childminder must ensure that robust checks have been completed for all adults aged 16 years and over at the registered address.

This is in order to comply with Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011/210. Regulation 4(1)(a) - Welfare of users;

This is to ensure that children are safeguarded whilst at the service and is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state: 'I am protected from harm, neglect, abuse, bullying and exploitation by people who have a clear understanding of their responsibilities' (HSCS 3.20).

This requirement was made on 9 November 2023.

Action taken on previous requirement

The childminder had begun the process to ensure robust checks have been carried out. This process has not yet been completed.

This requirement has not been met and remains in place.

Not met

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 provider should ensure children's individual health and wellbeing needs are met by ensuring that medication policies and procedures are in place and in line with best practice guidance.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'Any treatment or intervention that I experience is safe and effective' (HSCS 1.24).

This area for improvement was made on 9 November 2023.

Action taken since then

Children's health and wellbeing needs were supported as the childminder had reviewed medication policies and procedures which reflected best practice guidance.

This area for improvement has been met.

Previous area for improvement 2

To ensure children receive high quality care from skilled staff, the childminder and assistant should access regular training to ensure continuity of care for children.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes' (HSCS 3.14).

This area for improvement was made on 9 November 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder had accessed regular training opportunities which supported them to ensure continuity of care for children.

This area for improvement has been met.

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

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 cànan eile ma nithear iarrtas.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ '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.