

Ward, Wendy Child Minding

Dunfermline

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
23 January 2026

Service provided by:
Wendy Ward

Service provider number:
SP2003904442

Service no:
CS2003007475

About the service

Wendy Ward provides a childminding service from their property in a quiet residential area of Dalgety Bay. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of eight children up to 16 years of age.

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

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 22 January 2026 between 12:30 and 14:35. 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 two families
- received questionnaire feedback from eight 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, kind and nurturing interactions. The childminder knew children and their families very well.
- Children experienced a wide range of fun and exciting experiences in the community which helped them to develop a broad range of skills.
- Strong connections had been established with families which supported continuity of care.
- Children experienced relaxed, unhurried and sociable mealtimes.
- A culture of continuous improvement had been developed. Purposeful self-evaluation and realistic improvement priorities supported children to experience high quality care, play and learning.

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 of the service were embedded in the everyday life of the setting and informed daily practice. It was evident that children experienced a home from home environment which was warm, friendly and nurturing. For example, the childminder had thoughtfully displayed children's artwork and photographs in the playroom which created a homely and welcoming feel.

Families' views were sought to influence change within the setting. The childminder recognised the importance of positive relationships and actively encouraged their feedback to inform the development of the service. Both informal conversations and formal methods such as questionnaires enabled families to share their ideas and suggestions. These opportunities meant families had their views heard and helped them to feel included in the development of the service.

A culture of continuous improvement had been developed. The childminder had reflected on their quality assurance processes and was developing their approach to sustain improvements made. Purposeful self-evaluation enabled the childminder to identify strengths and areas for development within the service. They used this information effectively to identify realistic improvement priorities which were relevant to the service and informed by best practice guidance. As a result, children and families experienced 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 experienced a wide range of fun and exciting experiences in the community which helped them to develop a broad range of skills. Families spoke very positively about these experiences and told us, "From playing outside in the woods, learning stories in the library, role playing with friends and playing at the beach, Wendy has allowed a holistic and fun learning experience for our child."

Children were happy, relaxed and engaged playing in the childminder's home. They were able to make informed choices about their play from a variety of resources which were relevant to their interests. The childminder was knowledgeable about children's stages of development and carefully considered this during children's play. One family told us, "She knows my children's individual interests and caters activities accordingly. She appears genuinely interested in them." The childminder used approaches such as commentary and explanation to promote communication and language development.

Children were supported by the childminder to develop their social skills and friendships. They were given time, space and support to play together and had fun playing imaginative games. Responsive and caring interactions supported children's development. For example, children were given praise for trying things out which helped to build their confidence and self-esteem.

Observations of children's achievements were used to inform their next steps. We discussed how these could be more focused to identify children's progress. Children's achievements were shared with families and they were encouraged to be involved in their child's learning journey. One family told us, "We have always felt welcomed to discuss any progress/development concerns and also provide input on what we would like to see our child doing."

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, kind and nurturing interactions and as a result, they were happy and relaxed. The childminder was down at children's level, offered comfort when needed and responded positively to their cues. One child told us, "she loves me". Families were very positive about the care their children received. They told us, "Wendy cares for our child as if she is family and focuses on their needs and wants", "Wendy is attentive and caring and an absolute pleasure and blessing in our lives" and "Wendy is trustworthy and reliable."

Personal plans mostly reflected children's needs and interests. Children would benefit from some information being reviewed to ensure it reflected their needs as they changed. The childminder knew children and their families very well which enabled them to provide consistent care and support. One family told us, "They are nurtured and encouraged in a way that is specific to them. Wendy appreciates each child's special interests and uses this to encourage them in other areas of their development."

Children experienced relaxed, unhurried and sociable mealtimes. They were offered nutritious food choices which supported them to be healthy. Children's dietary needs were well managed which helped to keep them safe. Children were very well supported during mealtimes. They were encouraged to be independent, for example, developing skills such as using cutlery with support offered when needed. They enjoyed sitting and eating together and were able to eat at a pace which was right for them.

Strong connections had been established with families. They were warmly welcomed into the setting which supported continuity of care and helped to build positive relationships. Families told us they felt very well informed about their child's daily experiences and care. Their comments included, "Wendy is always very attentive and shares daily updates filled with a lot of detail. She is always open to a chat" and "She's very responsive to communication and goes out of her way to help."

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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