

Brotherstone, Linda Child Minding

Peebles

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
21 January 2026

Service provided by:
Linda Brotherstone

Service provider number:
SP2003908007

Service no:
CS2003009223

About the service

Linda Brotherstone is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a care service to a maximum of 7 children at any one time under the age of 16 of whom no more than 6 are under 12 years, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the children of the childminder's family.

The service is provided from the childminders family home in the town of Peebles in the Scottish Borders. The home is a detached property over two floors. Children have access to the ground floor and garden to the rear of the home. The home is in a residential area very close to the rural walks and landscapes. Local groups and community amenities were used frequently to enhance experiences for children.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 21 January 2026 between 11:30 and 13:30 hours. 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.

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.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- observed and interacted with children during their play
- reviewed comments made by five parents using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and the experiences for children
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were cared for in a warm and nurturing environment.
- The childminder could further evaluate the service against the quality framework to identify areas of strength and areas of improvement.
- A good balance of outings into the community and use of groups helped children develop social skills and a sense of community involvement.
- Play and learning could be further strengthened by planning for some play experiences and adapting observations to include outcomes for children.
- The childminder had positive relationships with parents and used these to provide good levels of support.
- The childminder knew children in her care very well but could improve recording of areas where they were supporting 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	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 childminder's work and some aspects which could benefit from improvement.

Quality indicator - Leadership and management of staff and resources

The childminder had developed aims and objectives for her service which provided information about the aspirations that they had for their service and for children in their care. Families confirmed that the childminder provided the type of service outlined in the aims and objectives. We asked the childminder to review the aims and objectives to ensure that they still reflected their service and values.

Policies and procedures which were used in the setting were regularly reviewed and updated to reflect current good practice. The childminder had begun to familiarise themselves with 'A quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding.' (Care Inspectorate 2025). This document could be used by the childminder to evaluate their service and identify further improvements which could be made.

Parents commented that communication with the childminder enabled them to share their views. "Linda always welcomes feedback." "Linda is open to feedback and ideas from the children and their families to continue to develop her service." We discussed the involvement of parents in the self-evaluation process. The childminder was doing this in an informal manner by regularly asking parents if there were aspects of the service which could be improved. We suggested that parents responses could feed into any improvement plans the childminder developed.

To support positive outcomes for children the childminder had completed several short training courses. Core training such as first aid and child protection were up to date. The childminder was aware of some of the current good practice documents which were available to help support their practice. The childminder took account of good practice when carrying out their role. For example, carrying out safety checks, making sure good practice for infection prevention and control were followed and having an understanding of good practice in relation to meals and snacks.

Children play and learn 4 - Good

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

Quality indicator - Playing, learning and developing

The childminder had a good understanding of how children learn and develop. They provided a good range of age appropriate resources to support children's fun and engagement in their learning. On the day of our visit children were accessing small world resources and playing with the kitchen set. There were books and puzzles which children could access independently from the cupboard. They were engaged and having fun in a range of age appropriate play activities. To further improve play the childminder could consider using a wider range of natural and real life resources, ensure that craft activities and mark making were incorporated into the choice of play activities.

The opportunities for outdoor and community experiences further supported physical play, social

development and a connection with nature. Parents valued the range of experiences out with the home which were provided. "(our child) has access to sports/physical activity - football, biking, running, walks." "Linda often takes my child out and about in the local community either to the park or to local age appropriate toddler groups which they really enjoy. This gives them a great opportunity to socialise."

The childminder supported children's play, learning and development through being responsive to children's interests and stages of development. They recognised children's verbal and nonverbal cues, offering praise and encouragement at an appropriate pace to build confidence and engagement. Interactions such as discussing children's play and wondering aloud stimulated children's curiosity and communication.

Parents were regularly informed about their child's development and information was shared in an activity diary. Strengthening the approach to observations and assessment could further improve planning and ensure that assessments about children's development and learning were clear and supported children's progression. The childminder acknowledged this during the inspection and was receptive to suggestions for improvement.

Children are supported to achieve 4 - Good

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

Quality indicator - Nurturing care and support

The childminder demonstrated a warm natural and positive relationships with children in their care. Children were comfortable and secure with the childminder and sought comfort and reassurance. The childminder knew children's needs and preferences very well and supported children to be capable individuals. Parents commented "My child is looked after in a small group which I appreciate as it means his needs are not being overlooked which may happen in a larger setting. I feel my son gets personalised one to one care. I enjoy the regular updates in either written or picture form through the day." "They receive more tailored care and interventions in order to promote their development. Their well-being needs have always been prioritised." "My child loves Linda and it is clear that Linda loves my child."

Personal plans were in place for all children and had been developed with families. Registration information included key details such as health needs and routines. Discussion with the childminder evidence that they had a very firm knowledge of each child and their needs. Parents confirmed that regular verbal communication helped the childminder stay responsive to changing needs. Personal plans had been reviewed with families every six months. While updates were shared these were not consistently recorded in the personal plans which would help to provide an overview of emerging issues or successes.

The childminder used community groups and outings regularly. They ensured that children knew what the routine was for the day and planned transitions throughout the day carefully. This helped to ensure that children felt safe and relaxed as they knew what was happening next.

Parents provided meals and snacks for children. Meals were eaten together in the dining area. This promoted a relaxed and social experience for children. The childminder was aware of food allergies and the need to promote healthy eating for children.

Children's health and wellbeing was supported through good procedures for the administration of

medication, assessment of risks and infection prevention and control practices. Children's privacy and dignity was taken into account of during nappy changing and starting the process of using the toilet.

The childminder knew the families using their service well. The childminder provided daily feedback to parents about their child's day and communicated regularly with them through text or WhatsApp. This helped to ensure that parents were included in the life of the setting. "Linda maintains effective communication; as parents we are involved in our child's care having input into their plan and receiving daily feedback following their sessions." "Linda is a very good communicator- completing a daily diary for my children and a chat everyday to pass on her observations."

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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