

Rising Towers Daycare Child Minding

Perth

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
2 February 2026

Service provided by:
Dawn Houston

Service provider number:
SP2004934643

Service no:
CS2004077600

About the service

Rising Towers Daycare provides a childminding service from their property in a quiet residential area close to the city of Perth. The service is near to local schools and nurseries, parks and other local amenities. The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time up to 16 years of age. Numbers are inclusive of the children of the childminder's family and no overnight care will be provided

Children have access to the living room, kitchen/dining area, downstairs toilet and an enclosed back garden. The childminder has recently converted the garage of the home into a playroom for children.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 28 January 2026 between 09:00 and 13:00. One inspector from the Care Inspectorate carried out the inspection.

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 throughout the inspection year.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spent time with children using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- gathered feedback from five families using a survey
- observed practice and children's experiences
- assessed core assurances, including the physical environment
- 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, improvements were identified relating to core assurances. We have reported where improvement is necessary within 'Leadership' and 'Children are supported to achieve'.

Key messages

- Self-evaluation and improvement planning were developing. This was beginning to support the childminder to identify what was working well and improvements that could be made.
- Partnership working with families was supported through effective communication and regular opportunities for them to share their views.
- Quality assurance processes, including policies, risk assessments and service procedures needed to be reviewed and strengthened to ensure consistent high-quality care and to maintain children's wellbeing.
- The childminder engaged in professional learning through training, webinars, and reading.
- Children experienced play that reflected their interests, with age-appropriate resources that they could explore freely and at their own pace, supporting choice and enabling them to lead their learning.
- Personal plans needed further development and updating with families. This would ensure children receive consistent, individualised support that reflects their current needs and promotes positive outcomes.
- The childminder knew children and their families well. Children appeared settled and were supported through the childminder's warm and caring interactions.

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

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| Leadership | 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate |
| Children play and learn | 4 - Good |
| Children are supported to achieve | 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate |

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

Leadership 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

Quality indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources

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

The childminder had developed a vision and aims for the service. These had recently been updated to include the views of families, ensuring they remained relevant and meaningful to those using the service.

Partnership working with families was strengthened through effective communication. Families were offered a range of opportunities to share their views and suggestions, ensuring that their voices were included. The childminder could further explore how families can share their views and suggestions within identified priorities of the service improvement plan. This would support families to play a meaningful role in shaping future developments.

Self-evaluation using the 'quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors' was beginning to support the childminder to reflect on their practice and identify areas for development. We encouraged the childminder to keep building on this work and suggested that it would be helpful for them to track and evaluate the progress of improvements made. Strengthening these approaches would help to identify what is working well and where further changes are needed. This will support ongoing improvements and help to enhance the quality of care and experiences for children.

Service procedures should be reviewed and strengthened to ensure children receive consistently safe, high-quality care. While a range of policies had been developed, they needed to be reviewed to reflect current practice and guidance. Risk assessments needed to be further developed to help identify potential hazards and plan clear safety measures across children's experiences. Procedures for managing pets did not fully support a safe and calm environment. During our visit, the family dogs were at times energetic, and despite the childminder's interventions, current arrangements did not sufficiently ensure children's safety and wellbeing (see area for improvement 1).

Required notifications were not consistently submitted promptly, which limited the childminder's ability to meet their responsibilities as a registered service. Notifications relating to changes within the household had not been provided within the expected timescales. While the childminder had actioned this following the inspection visit, they should develop their awareness of notification guidance and their responsibilities to ensure they continue to meet their obligations as a provider. These processes allow the Care Inspectorate to carry out safety checks and ensure that potential risks are identified and addressed appropriately. This was an area for improvement made at the previous inspection and will continue (see 'What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection').

Quality indicator: Staff skills, knowledge, values and deployment

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.

Families told us they experienced strong and positive relationships with the childminder. Feedback highlighted that they felt well-connected and supported, and that trusting relationships had been established. One family shared, 'Very friendly, willing to listen and help, always goes above and beyond, supporting us a family whilst providing invaluable care for our child'. The childminder spoke warmly about the children and the families using the service, demonstrating genuine care and valuing these connections.

The childminder had been proactive in developing their professional learning since the last inspection. They had engaged in a range of development opportunities, including training, webinars, and professional reading. This helped to build their knowledge and inform their practice. It would be beneficial to continue developing their understanding of current best practice guidance to strengthen the quality of their work, in particular, becoming more familiar with 'Realising the Ambition - National Practice Guidance for Early Years in Scotland'. This would deepen the childminder's understanding of high quality early learning and childcare practice.

The childminder spoke positively about how undertaking learning had supported their confidence and understanding. To develop this further, it would be helpful to record reflections of their professional learning. This would support them to evaluate the impact learning makes to their practice and outcomes for children.

Provider updates from the Care Inspectorate, along with the childminder's membership of the Scottish Childminding Association, supported them to remain up to date with developments across the early learning and childcare sector. This ensured they had access to current guidance, good practice materials, and sector news relevant to their role.

Areas for improvement

1. Quality assurance procedures should be further developed to ensure children consistently experience safe and high quality care.

This should include, but is not limited to,

- updating policies and procedures in line with guidance and best practice,
- developing risk assessments to identify potential safety concerns and the actions taken to minimise risks,
- developing procedures to support children's safety and wellbeing around family pets.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

and

'My environment is secure and safe' (HSCS 5.19).

Children play and learn 4 - Good

Quality indicator: Playing, learning and developing

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.

Children experienced play that reflected their interests. They explored resources freely and at their own pace, which supported choice and allowed them to lead their experiences. The resources available were suitable for their age and stage of development, offering a range of play opportunities. The childminder spoke confidently about children's interests, and these were reflected in the resources provided. This meant that children engaged in play that was fun and enjoyable. One family told us, 'I know my child's voice is heard and that my childminder takes this into account when making decisions'.

Play spaces had been developed since the last inspection. The garage had been converted into a playroom, providing a welcoming space for children to play and explore. The layout of furniture and resources enabled children to make choices in how they spent their time whilst in the setting. The accessibility of resources supported children's exploration and allowed them to investigate their interests and ideas further.

Children appeared happy during play, and interactions with the childminder were warm and positive. There were occasions when opportunities to support and extend children's engagement were missed and where children would have benefitted from adult interaction. This would have provided opportunities to model play, enrich language, and build curiosity. While the childminder recognised the value of enabling children to lead their own experiences, continued use of observations would help them to identify when to step in and offer support. Strengthening this approach will enhance children's learning, promote deeper engagement, and support their overall development.

The childminder was beginning to record observations of children's play and learning. This helped to recognise their progress and achievements. Next steps in learning were identified to help plan for children's experiences and development needs. The childminder should continue to embed this approach to better support children to build their knowledge, develop new skills and make meaningful progress.

Families were supported to stay involved in their children's learning. Regular communication through newsletters and daily updates helped share information about children's experiences and progress. This kept families included and informed, strengthened relationships and supported continuity in children's learning and development.

Children are supported to achieve 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

Quality indicator: Nurturing care and support

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

Children appeared settled during the inspection. On occasion, when children did become upset, the childminder offered cuddles and support, and interacted in a warm and responsive way. This helped children to feel safe and secure. The childminder spoke confidently about the interests and needs of children in their care and how they were supporting to meet these.

Feedback from one of the children highlighted that they felt their experiences were positive. They told us that their ideas and suggestions were responded to and they are included in developing the service. They shared that they felt very happy and enjoyed their time at the childminder's. They told us, "I enjoy going to [the childminder's]. It's fun and I feel safe and loved."

Personal plans needed to be further developed to improve planning for children's care and supporting their needs. Current plans included children's registration and all about me details, such as their preferences and family information. Plans should be updated with families at least every six months and include clear strategies showing how each child's care, learning, and wellbeing needs will be met. This would ensure children receive consistent, individualised support that promotes positive and secure experiences (see area for improvement 1).

The childminder spoke positively about recent professional development around healthy mealtimes. 'Setting the table' training had helped them to reflect on their practice and develop their awareness of nutritious food choices. As a result, snack menus were updated to support children's health and wellbeing. Children had access to fresh water throughout the day, supporting them to keep hydrated. Mealtimes could be further developed to create more nurturing and sociable experiences. We suggested that the childminder sit with children and develop ways in which all children can sit together to eat. This would enhance the opportunities children have to develop their language and social skills.

Some infection prevention and control procedures did not follow current best practice and guidance. This had the potential to spread infection and impact on children's health and wellbeing. While spaces and resources used by children were clean, there were missed opportunities to support children with handwashing, such as before meals and after touching pets. The childminder should also consider using a changing mat for nappy changing. This would provide a wipeable surface for effective cleaning after carrying out children's personal care, helping to reduce the risk of infection spread (see area for improvement 2).

Children's safety was supported through the childminder's knowledge and understanding of safeguarding procedures, first aid and safe sleep practices. Procedures for recording health care needs and safe storage of medication were in place which promoted children's wellbeing.

Areas for improvement

1. To support children's wellbeing, learning and development, the childminder should further develop children's personal plans to show how their needs are being identified and met. Plans should be developed in consultation with families and reviewed when there is a significant change in a child's needs, or at least once in every six month period.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15).

2. The childminder should strengthen infection prevention and control practices to help reduce the risk of infection spread and promote children's health and wellbeing.

This should include, but is not limited to,

- supporting children with carrying out effective handwashing
- using a wipeable changing mat in nappy changing routines.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'My environment is secure and safe' (HSCS 5.19).

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

To support children to reach their full potential, the childminder should review how she observes and captures children's progress and development and 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 Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'As a child, my social and physical skills, confidence, self-esteem and creativity are developed through a balance of organised and freely chosen extended play, including using open ended and natural materials' (HSCS 1.31).

This area for improvement was made on 2 July 2024.

Action taken since then

Observations of some of children's play and learning helped to recognise their progress and achievements. Next steps were identified to help plan for children's learning and development needs. The childminder should continue to embed this approach to support planning for children's play and learning.

This area for improvement has been met.

Previous area for improvement 2

To continue to improve outcomes for children, self-evaluation should be further developed, including meaningfully involving children and families.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state 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 22 August 2023.

Action taken since then

Self-evaluation was beginning to be carried out. This helped the childminder to reflect upon and evaluate their practice, and identify changes that could lead to improvements. Children and families had opportunities to share their views and suggestions which supported them to be included in driving improvement. The childminder should continue to develop self-evaluation approaches and consider how they can further include the involvement of children and families.

This area for improvement has been met.

Previous area for improvement 3

To promote positive outcomes for children, the childminder should develop their knowledge and understanding of their role and responsibilities.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled' (HSCS 3.14)

This area for improvement was made on 22 August 2023.

Action taken since then

Required notifications were not consistently submitted promptly, which limited the childminder's ability to meet their responsibilities as a registered service.

During the inspection we had to prompt action required to notify Care Inspectorate of changes within the household as this had not been carried out within the expected timescales. While the childminder actioned this following the inspection visit, they need to develop their awareness of notification guidance and their responsibilities to ensure they continue to meet their obligations as a provider.

This area for improvement has not been met and will continue.

Previous area for improvement 4

To support children's wellbeing, learning and development, the childminder should access training and professional development and apply their learning in practice.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled' (HSCS 3.14).

This area for improvement was made on 4 July 2024.

Action taken since then

The childminder had been proactive in developing their professional learning and undertaking training since the last inspection. They had engaged in a range of development opportunities, including training, webinars, and professional reading to support their practice.

This area for improvement has been met.

Complaints

Please see Care Inspectorate website (www.careinspectorate.com) for details of complaints about the service which have been upheld.

Detailed evaluations

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| Leadership | 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate |
| Leadership and management of staff and resources | 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate |
| Staff skills, knowledge, values and deployment | 4 - Good |
| Children play and learn | 4 - Good |
| Playing, learning and developing | 4 - Good |
| Children are supported to achieve | 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate |
| Nurturing care and support | 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate |

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