

# Cosy Corner Childminding Child Minding

Eyemouth

**Type of inspection:**  
Announced (short notice)

**Completed on:**  
4 March 2026

**Service provided by:**  
Nichola Smith

**Service provider number:**  
SP2023000193

**Service no:**  
CS2023000303

## About the service

Cosy Corner Childminding provides a service for a maximum of 6 children at any one time up to 16 years of age of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months.

The service is provided from the childminders family home in the town of Eyemouth in the Scottish Borders. The home is a terraced property over two floors. Children have access to the ground floor and small garden to the front of the home. The home is in a residential area very close to the beach, parks and rural walks. 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 3 March 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.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- observed and interacted with children during their play
- reviewed comments made by one parent using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and the experiences for children
- 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 strong relationships with the childminder who demonstrated a warm, kind and nurturing approach.
- Children were encouraged and supported to learn and explore the wider world through accessing a range of play opportunities in and out with the community.
- The childminder worked in partnership with parents and had effective communication.
- The childminder had started assessing the service, but recording strengths and areas for development would further enhance children's experiences.
- Play and learning opportunities could be enhanced by recording specific play activities and adapting observations that reflect children's outcomes.
- The childminder knew the children well, however personal plans could record the support provided to individual 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 thrive and develop in quality spaces	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 established aims and objectives that set out their aspirations for the service and the children. They intended to review these to ensure they remained aligned with the service and its values.

Parents' and children's views were central to the development of the service. The childminder maintained regular communication at drop off and collection times and through the service's WhatsApp group. The childminder valued everyone's input and we suggested asking for feedback to develop improvements and support the best outcomes for children and families.

The childminder had begun to review their policies and procedures to ensure they reflected current good practice. We suggested that they created a safe sleep policy (see area for Improvement 1).

The childminder had begun to familiarise themselves with 'A quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding.' (Care Inspectorate 2025). They had used this to evaluate their service and identify some improvements which could be made. This included further work around planning, evaluating play experiences, observing children and developing their garden.

To support positive outcomes for children the childminder had completed several training courses. This included understanding children development from birth to five years, parental involvement, allergens and GIRFEC. Core training such as food hygiene and child protection were up to date. This supported the childminder to keep children safe from harm and abuse.

### Areas for improvement

1. To support the service to be managed and led well, the childminder should review and update the policies of the service. An additional policy for safe sleep practices should be developed.

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

'I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed' (HSCS 4.23)

## Children thrive and develop in quality spaces 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.

Quality Indicator: Children experience high quality facilities

Children experienced a home environment that was clean, warm and welcoming. There was ample space for

them to move freely and make choices about where to play, rest or relax. Children enjoyed making dens, dancing and playing with the musical resources. Children were having fun.

The childminder prioritised children's safety during the walk home from school. Younger children were supported by holding the childminder's hand, while older children were encouraged to develop independence safely. This supported children to build their awareness of road safety in a developmentally appropriate way.

The childminder recognised the importance of maintaining the environment and keeping children safe. However, risk assessments were informal we have asked the childminder to develop detailed risk assessments for the home, outings and the school journey. We asked that these be completed to clearly record the actions taken to minimise potential risks. This would help to further support children's safety.

Children's personal information was stored securely. It was accessible and organised. Therefore, there were effective and efficient systems to help meet children's needs.

### Areas for improvement

1. To ensure the environment is safe and secure, the childminder should improve the way she assesses risk to minimise hazards.

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 5.17)

## Children play and learn 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.

### Quality Indicator: Play learning and developing

Children were confident in the home and selected toys that interested them. The childminder offered consistent praise, warmth and encouragement which supported children to feel secure and confident while developing their social skills. The childminders effective modelling of language and numeracy further strengthened children's skills and development.

The childminder's home was organised to provide children with space to move freely around indoors. Toys and resources were easily accessible and carefully matched to children's ages and stages of development. As a result, children developed a broad range of knowledge, understanding and skills for life. This promoted choice, independence and good experiences in their play and learning.

Children were participating in a wide range of outdoor activities. For example, trips to the local park, beach, outings to the local library and participating in book bugs with other children. As a result, children were developing links within their community, creating friendships with others and had lots of opportunities for fresh air and physical play.

Planning approaches were informal, with daily consultation to support children's choices. The childminder discussed plans to introduce additional methods to gather children's views and record their experiences. This would further strengthen children's sense of being valued, listened to and involved in shaping their

own play and learning.

The childminder plans to develop recording observations and assessments. We discussed using a format that was simple and used children's individual artwork, their voice and meaningful photographs. This would support planning for children's progress, achievements and help reflect children's ideas, curiosities and meaningful next steps in learning.

## 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.

### Quality Indicator: Nurturing care and support

The childminder knew the children in their care well, which enabled them to respond effectively to their wellbeing needs. Warm interactions, including cuddles and reassurance, demonstrated to children that they were valued and important. Families were kept informed throughout the day, and effective information sharing supported children's needs to be met consistently.

Parents provided meals and snacks for children. Meals were eaten together at the dining table. 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.

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. To better support each child's individual needs, the childminder could develop personal plans to record emerging issues, identify developmental needs and highlight children's achievements.

There had been no medication administered to any children attending the service. However, we saw that the childminder had the templates for logging children's medication if needed. These were in line with the Care Inspectorate guidance, 'Management of medication in day care of children and childminding services'.

Individual sleep routines were followed. We asked the childminder to develop a sleep policy to reflect safer sleeping guidance and it should be clear on the procedure if families request children sleep in buggies. This would ensure children were supported to be safe in the service (**see area for improvement under heading: leadership**).

## Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Detailed evaluations

Leadership	4 - Good
Leadership and management of staff and resources	4 - Good
Children thrive and develop in quality spaces	4 - Good
Children experience high quality spaces	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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