

# Jen's Childminding Child Minding

Prestonpans

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
9 March 2026

**Service provided by:**  
Jennifer Monaghan

**Service provider number:**  
SP2016987693

**Service no:**  
CS2016344103

## About the service

Jen's Childminding provides a childminding service from their home in a residential area of Port Seton, East Lothian.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of 7 children at any one time up to 16 years of age; of whom no more than 6 are under 12 years; of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school; of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers include the children of the childminder's family/household. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate and overnight care will not be provided.

Eight children were registered with the service and four attended at the time of the inspection.

The service is close to a local primary school, shops, parks and other amenities. Children access the ground level of the childminder's home for play, rest and meals. An enclosed garden provides outdoor space for children to play.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 9 March 2026 between 08:00 and 12:00. 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:

- interacted with three children using the service and spoke with two of their parents/carers
- received three completed questionnaires from families
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily 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 were cared for by a knowledgeable and experienced childminder.
- Children experienced warm, nurturing relationships which helped them to feel safe, valued and confident.
- The childminder was committed to ongoing professional learning and the continuous improvement of the service. This contributed to high quality care and learning experiences.
- Children experienced a range of interesting experiences and were well supported in their play and learning.
- The childminder had established strong relationships with families which contributed to positive outcomes for 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	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

### Quality indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources

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.

The childminder's vision to provide "a safe, nurturing and stimulating home-based environment" whilst promoting "kindness, respect and positive relationships" was evident in daily routines and interactions. Vision, values and aims were shared with parents prior to registration. This supported parents' understanding of the care provided and helped them choose a service that was right for them and their child.

All parents strongly agreed they were happy with the service. One parent commented: "[The childminder] is warm and friendly and my child is very happy there."

Communication was a key strength of the service. A range of effective strategies promoted positive relationships. A parent told us how daily transitions were well-supported by the childminder. Another parent shared: "We discuss any developments when they come up. The childminder supports us in creating a similar routine in their care to match ours at home." The childminder actively sought feedback and encouraged contributions from home. Children were routinely consulted, offered choices and encouraged to share their views. This contributed to them feeling valued and meaningfully involved in decisions that shaped their daily experiences.

Quality assurance processes supported children's safety. The childminder had detailed policies in place that reflected their practice and supported the smooth running of the service. Risk assessments identified hazards and appropriate control measures. We discussed ways to further embed risk awareness, including involving children, and signposted the childminder to the Care Inspectorate's SIMOA - Keeping Children Safe Campaign. This would help develop children's understanding of risk and support them to learn how to keep themselves safe.

The childminder was experienced and confident within their role. They used ongoing professional development to support the quality assurance of their service. Training, in areas such as first aid and child protection, increased their confidence in keeping children safe. Their infection prevention and control training was reflected in the clean, well-maintained home environment.

The childminder was a member of a national childminding organisation and met regularly with other local childminders to share practice and plan joint experiences, such as outdoor trips. These enhanced children's social experiences and supported professional reflection.

**Children play and learn** 5 - Very Good**Quality indicator: Playing, learning and developing**

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.

Children were happy and engaged as they explored a range of good quality toys and games. This included a play kitchen and role play coffee shop that encouraged children to use their imagination. Toys and games were age-appropriate and easily accessible to the children. The childminder told us these were regularly rotated to help sustain children's interests and engagement. A child commented: "[The childminder] sets fun things up for us to do and we get to go to the park."

Children's learning was supported by the childminder's knowledge of child development and their responsive, natural interactions. They took time to listen to children, pick up on their non-verbal cues and respected their choices. This supported children's communication skills and sense of being valued.

Language, literacy and numeracy was naturally woven into daily experiences, for example, when counting during the walk to school. Children were able to access a variety of mark making resources and spent time creating Mother's day cards for loved ones. Visits to the local library further encouraged literacy skills. As a result, children were happy and developing confidence in their abilities as they learned through play.

Planning approaches were child-centred and responsive to children's interests. The childminder knew the children well and used this knowledge to plan learning experiences that reflected what they enjoyed. Children were regularly asked what they wanted to do, and activities were shaped around their choices. Floor books captured children's voices through their comments and photographs, providing a useful way to revisit and reflect on previous experiences.

Children's learning was recorded through observations shared with parents using an online platform. Observations were used to plan for progression, identifying next steps for children. The childminder worked closely with parents who told us they were happy with the experiences provided. These included "Crafts, play with peers, trips to local toddler group and the park". As a result, children were able to progress and achieve.

Children's experiences were enriched through regular opportunities to play and learn in the community. This included trips to the beach, attending children's groups and playing at a local soft play centre. Parents and carers talked positively about this aspect of the service. One parent commented children were, "Well connected to the community as a result of their time with [the childminder]". Another parent shared: "[The childminder] makes lots of effort to create events and take children on outings." These experiences supported children to develop their social skills and build meaningful connections with their community.

## Children are supported to achieve 5 - Very Good

### Quality indicator: Nurturing care and support

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.

Children experienced calm, respectful and nurturing interactions that promoted emotional security. The childminder knew children well and responded sensitively to their changing needs, ensuring they felt safe and valued. Children sought the childminder out for comfort and interaction, demonstrating the strong, secure attachments they had formed.

The childminder had carefully considered children's transition into the service. They were flexible to children's needs and ensured they had time to become familiar with the childminder and build a trusting, supportive relationship. This helped children to settle at their own pace and supported families to feel confident and reassured during this important time.

Children's wellbeing was supported through the childminder's knowledge of their individual needs. Personal plans were in place for each child, which contained relevant information about children's health, preferences and routines. These had been completed when children started and were reviewed through collaboration with families. We reminded the childminder to ensure parents formally confirm they have reviewed their children's information at least every six months, in line with guidance to ensure no important changes are missed.

Children experienced snack times that were sociable and unhurried. Children ate together at a small table at children's height to promote independence and good eating habits. The childminder encouraged healthy choices and promoted a positive approach to nutrition in line with guidance. Water was offered to drink, helping to keep children hydrated and well. The childminder supervised children throughout the snack time experience. They understood how to reduce choking risks and made sure fruit was cut safely. This supported children's wellbeing and helped keep them safe.

Personal care for children was managed with discretion and respect, children were encouraged and praised in being as independent as possible in self-care, such as washing hands and dressing to go outdoors. This supported children's self-esteem and confidence.

The childminder had strong relationships with families and tailored care to each family's circumstances and preferences. Regular communication ensured families felt informed and connected to their child's experiences. This strengthened continuity of care and supported positive nurturing relationships. A parent described the childminder as, "Friendly, relaxed and gentle in nature." One parent commented: "My child seems so happy and excited to get in, in the morning and often asks to go back." Another parent shared: "My child loves going to their house and making friends."

## 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

<b>Leadership</b>	<b>5 - Very Good</b>
Leadership and management of staff and resources	5 - Very Good
<b>Children play and learn</b>	<b>5 - Very Good</b>
Playing, learning and developing	5 - Very Good
<b>Children are supported to achieve</b>	<b>5 - Very Good</b>
Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good

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