

Campbell, Myra Child Minding

Dalkeith

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
23 March 2026

Service provided by:
Myra Campbell

Service provider number:
SP2009976831

Service no:
CS2009236560

About the service

Myra Campbell (referred to as the childminder in this report) provides the service from their detached home in a quiet residential area of Mayfield, Dalkeith. The areas used for the childminding service are the open plan kitchen/lounge/dining room, downstairs bathroom and large enclosed rear garden.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16; of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school; and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 23 March 2026 between 14:00 and 16:30. One Inspector carried out the inspection.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since registration.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with children using the service
- considered feedback from three families through an online questionnaire
- spoke with the childminder and one family
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents relating to the care of children and the management of the service.

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 and responsive care to ensure they felt safe and secure.
- Quality assurance and self evaluation processes could be strengthened to ensure reviews and any changes made to the service consistently lead to positive outcomes for children.
- Regular outdoor play and visits within the community enriched children's experiences.
- Children were happy, thriving and well care for due to strong family relationships, personalised support and effective communication between home and the setting.

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	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 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.

Leadership and management of staff and resources

The childminder demonstrated a strong commitment to delivering a high quality experience for children and families. They had clear aims and objectives and shared these through a helpful welcome handbook. Families received this when they started, which supported their understanding of the service. The aims to provide a safe, welcoming and happy environment where children could grow and reach their potential was reflected in their practice. The nurturing and caring ethos was clear through the childminder's respectful interactions and effective communication. Families told us their children felt safe, loved and well cared for in the homely environment. As a result, the service was values led and supported secure, nurturing relationships and positive outcomes for children.

The childminder recognised the value of gathering the views of children and families. They routinely sought verbal feedback. Questionnaires had recently been issued to families to gather more formal opinions. Families told us they felt meaningfully involved and spoke highly of the childminder's openness and approachability. One family commented, "Our childminder frequently checks in and makes sure we are all happy with the care provided and asks if there is any room for improvement". Another family told us, "Hand on heart I don't think anything could improve. I'm blown away by the service the childminder provides". As a result, partnership working strengthened and children benefitted from experiences shaped by their needs and interests. We encouraged the childminder to use the recent questionnaire feedback to review and update their aims and objectives. This would contribute to newer children and families' views informing an updated shared vision which would highlight the high quality service families said they received.

The childminder had identified areas for improvement through informal self evaluation. For example, they discussed new personal planning and children's development templates they planned to introduce and explained the reasons for these changes. This demonstrated a reflective approach. Moving forward the childminder could develop more formal quality assurance, improvement and evaluation processes. This would support them to measure the impact on improvements and changes made. To support improvement processes we sign posted the childminder to the shared 'Quality Improvement Framework for the Early Learning and Childcare Sectors' and encouraged them to continue to make use of their Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) membership to support self-evaluation processes.

We encouraged the childminder to keep up to date with best practice guidance to support quality assurance and self-evaluation. The childminder supported children's individual sleep routines in agreement with families, showing a responsive approach. However, we discussed that children sleeping in a buggy was not best practice. We acknowledged their efforts to keep children safe through regular checks but highlighted the need to use appropriate sleep equipment and bedding. We signposted the childminder to the Scottish Government's Safer Sleep for Babies guidance. In consultation with families the childminder could agree ways to support safer sleeping for all children in the service. The childminder responded positively to our feedback. They purchased a travel cot, sleep mats and developed a new sleep policy, which they shared with families. They confirmed they were introducing changes slowly while continuing to meet individual children's needs. This will contribute to children's sleep routines being safer and more comfortable.

Policies and procedures were in place and supported the childminder's practice and the running of the service. The childminder had completed first aid and child protection training, ensuring they had the skills and knowledge needed to respond effectively to keep children safe. They demonstrated good safeguarding knowledge and clearly described the steps they would take if they had concerns about a child. Their child protection policy outlined the actions to be followed and was shared with families at registration. As a result, there was a shared understanding of the childminder's responsibilities, helping to ensure children were kept safe and protected.

Risk assessments were in place for most areas of the home. These were mainly presented as checklists. The childminder was in the process of updating these using a new format. Some assessments did not fully reflect current circumstances. For example, the garden checklist had not been updated to show that the area was out of use due to renovation. Continuing to review and strengthen risk benefit assessments will help ensure they cover the whole service, support children's safety and promote positive experiences.

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.

Play, learning and developing

Children were happy, confident and engaged in their play. They explored the environment freely and led their own play through a wide range of toys and natural resources that promoted choice, curiosity and independence. During the visit children showed imagination and were sustained in their play, for example, using play kitchen pots and pegs as drums and making toast in the pretend kitchen. They enjoyed looking at books, caring for dolls and playing with the farm animals. The childminder was responsive and interacted very well with the children, interpreting their interests, extending their thinking and supporting communication, language and imaginative play. For instance, singing songs, helping them care for the babies whilst offering comfort and reassurance when needed. As a result, children were motivated, independent and experienced rich, meaningful play.

Children experienced a well-balanced blend of planned and responsive play opportunities. Activities and daily experiences were tailored to their developmental stages and interests. Morning activities were usually outdoors and included walks, visits to local parks, soft play sessions and trips to the country park. These daily experiences enhanced children's sense of wonder, supported their wellbeing and developed their motor skills and curiosity about nature. They also helped children become familiar with their local community. The childminder and children often met with another childminder and their group, which enhanced social experiences. Afternoons offered time for rest and play in the childminder's home. Evidence in children's folders and digital records showed they were creative, making pictures, cards and engaging in sensory play. Families were positive in their feedback about the range of outings, noting that their children always had fun, enjoyed creating artwork and returned home happy. As a result, children were stimulated, well supported and experienced a balanced day that promoted their wellbeing, play learning and development.

The childminder demonstrated confidence in monitoring and assessing children's learning and development. Photos, written observations and identified next steps were recorded in individual files. This helped the childminder recognise children's progress and achievements and plan effectively around their interests. The use of developmental milestones meant gaps could be identified and the childminder could plan experiences around these. Families were kept well informed of their child's progress. Photos and messages on a digital platform, as well as regular conversations at drop off, pick up and throughout the day contributed to a joined-up approach to children's play and learning. Families told us the childminder communicated very well and shared helpful feedback. As a result, children received well informed support that promoted their play, learning and development.

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 care from the childminder. This consistency supported their wellbeing and helped them feel welcomed and valued. The childminder offered cuddles and reassurance and knew each child well. This strengthened connections and helped develop trusting relationships. They read children's verbal and non verbal cues with confidence and adapted their approach to meet individual needs. All families who responded to the questionnaire strongly agreed they had a positive relationship with the childminder. One family said, "[The childminder] looks after each child like they're [the childminder's] own. You can leave your child knowing they are safe, loved and well cared for." Another commented, "[Childminder] is great, I know my children are well cared for and nurtured." As a result, children received warm, responsive care that promoted their wellbeing and supported positive outcomes.

Children's wellbeing was well supported because the childminder had a strong understanding of their individual needs. Personal plans were in place for all children and developed in partnership with families. These plans were detailed and included key information such as, health and wellbeing needs and family preferences. The childminder used the plans as working documents and updated them in line with best practice guidance. Families confirmed they were actively involved in developing and reviewing plans. One family told us, "[The childminder] has been brilliant in helping us with our child's recent care needs. We created plans together and they have supported our plan." Another family said, "[Childminder] has been great at discussing our child's development. Anytime we need to discuss or change anything, it is never a problem." As a result, children experienced care that consistently reflected their needs, supported their development and respected their rights.

Families provided packed lunches from home, and the childminder offered these at times that reflected each child's individual routines and preferences. Children often enjoyed their packed lunches while out in the local community. Highchairs were available in the dining space to support younger children. Due to the small number of children attending the service, the environment remained calm and relaxed, creating a positive atmosphere for mealtimes. This helped ensure children were comfortable and able to eat in a way that mirrored their established routines from home.

Children's personal care needs were carried out safely and respectfully, maintaining their dignity and comfort. Nappy changing took place discreetly in the living room area, enabling the childminder to supervise other children while still protecting privacy. Effective hand hygiene practices were in place, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as gloves and aprons, was routinely used in line with best practice infection prevention and control guidance. As a result, children experienced safe, hygienic and respectful personal care that promoted their wellbeing.

Children's health and wellbeing were further supported through clear and effective processes for managing medication. Although no children required medication, the childminder confidently described the procedures they would follow and a clear policy was in place to guide this practice. We discussed with the childminder that they should review all consent, check whether medication is still required and confirm that the dosage has not changed every three months or at the start of a new term. We emailed the childminder Care Inspectorate's Management of Medication in Daycare of Children and Childminding Services (edited July 2025) to support continued best practice.

Families reported strong and positive relationships with the childminder. They consistently described the childminder as warm, welcoming, communicative and highly attentive. They appreciated the quality of communication. One family told us, "At pick up I am always welcomed in to see what they have been up to." Another said, "We have great chats at drop off and pick up. I receive regular photos of my child throughout the day and [Childminder] loves to listen about my other children too." Families shared that the safe, homely environment helped their children settle happily and that the childminder frequently checked in to support them and their children's needs. We saw children were happy, thriving and well cared for due to personalised support and strong communication between home and the setting. As a result, children benefitted from consistent, nurturing relationships that supported their wellbeing and enhanced their overall experience of care.

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	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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