

Donna Gibson Child Minding

Burntisland

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
19 March 2026

Service provided by:
Donna Gibson

Service provider number:
SP2003908564

Service no:
CS2003014131

About the service

Donna Gibson provides a childminding service from the family home in Aberdour, Fife. The care service may be provided to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16 years, of whom a maximum of 6 will be under the age of 12 years, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and no more than 1 is under 12 months of age, except in the case of siblings. These numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own children who have not yet reached the age of 12 years.

Children had a dedicated play space in the den in the garden. They had access to a bathroom in the childminder's home. The service is close to local amenities such as, shops, parks and transport links.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 17 March 2026 between 14:00 and 17:10. Feedback was given to the childminder on 19 March 2026 at 18:20. This 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 and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year. To inform our evaluation we:

- spent time with two people using the service
- received 10 completed questionnaires
- spoke with the childminder
- assessed core assurances, including the physical environment
- observed practice and daily life
- 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 a welcoming ethos. The childminder aimed to create an environment where children had opportunities to lead their play and be happy.
- The childminder was at the early stages of engaging with the new Quality Improvement Framework: Childminding.
- The childminder joined in children's play and supported their learning. Children were given time to think, respond, and explore ideas.
- Children experienced warm, caring interactions which helped them form good attachments with the childminder.
- The childminder needs to consider the impact of how routines are planned taking into account of children's individual needs

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	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

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

Leadership and management of staff and resources

Children experienced a welcoming ethos within the service. The childminder had a mission statement that set out an intention to provide a safe, fun environment where children are cared for and supported to lead their play. The mission statement should be updated to reflect the services focus on being outdoors. There should also be information in relation to how the service will plan for children's routines and meet their individual needs. (see area for improvement 1).

The childminder was at the early stages of engaging with the new Quality Improvement Framework: Childminding. We discussed the benefits of self-evaluation and using this document to identify strengths and highlight areas for development. Implementing a structured self-evaluation process would support continuous improvement, ensuring the service evolves in line with best practice and would deliver consistently high-quality outcomes for children and families (see area for improvement 1).

The childminder used questionnaires to gain feedback about the service from families. All responses were positive. Parents agreed that they were meaningfully involved in the development of the service. A family shared "We provide regular feedback to [childminder], though there isn't really any further developments required to [childminder] service in my opinion".

To make the feedback even more useful in the future, the childminder should consider the challenge questions within the Quality Improvement Framework to support reflection on experiences and outcomes for children (see area for improvement 1).

The childminder had a range of policies in place. These had not been reviewed to ensure that they reflected current best practice. To strengthen practice, the childminder needed to ensure that daily routines consistently aligned with best practice guidance and were reflective to the service that they were offering. For example, development of a healthy eating and safe sleeping policy. This would help to ensure that families have a clearer understanding of the service aims, expectations and support positive outcomes for children (see area for improvement 1).

Areas for improvement

1.

To support improvement to the service and ensure positive outcomes for children, the childminder should develop quality assurance practices. This should include but is not limited to;

- a) Reviewing values, visions and aims in consultation with children and families.
- b) Recording children and families views used to inform developments.
- c) Ensuring practices are in line with policies, procedures and best practice guidance.
- d) Implementing a self-evaluation process to support improvement, including the use of the new Quality Improvement Framework for Childminding.

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).

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.

Playing, learning and developing

Children's thinking and learning were supported through positive interactions. The childminder used effective strategies such as modelling and encouragement to help extend children's ideas. Interactions were respectful, warm and guided by children's interests. The childminder joined in children's play and supported their learning. Children were given time to think, respond, and explore ideas.

All families agreed that children are consulted on what experiences are on offer. Families shared "[childminder] regularly takes the children to the local play park or beach, which they love" and [childminder] focusses the children's experience on outdoor activities the majority of the time. She advises us on clothing and preparation for these activities whenever needed".

Children's achievements and progress were celebrated and shared with families through a communication app. The childminder had identified where a child had a specific interest and used this to plan experiences. As a result, children were making good progress. The childminder used informal observations to understand children's interests and perspectives, these could be developed further to identify progress and next steps more effectively.

Children experienced frequent outdoor opportunities, as the childminder had focused much of the provision on outdoor play. They had some opportunities to make choices and develop independence in their play. Children participated within experiences in the local community, including visits to a variety of parks, green spaces, the beach. For example the service visited Deep Sea World, Edinburgh Zoo and Historic Scotland sites. Bookbug sessions were delivered by the service, this meant that the childminder supported speech and language development. Children had some opportunities to make choices and develop independence in their play. The service could now consider further ways to consult with children when planning experiences both indoors and outdoors. This will ensure their voices and rights meaningfully influence their play and learning.

Children are supported to achieve 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

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

Nurturing care and support

Children experienced warm, caring interactions which helped them form good attachments with the childminder. Children were enabled to feel secure, happy and confident as the childminder was responsive to their immediate needs. As a result, children readily sought reassurance and comfort from the childminder. A family shared "[Childminder] is incredibly caring and supportive of the children. Our child is so happy with

them. They provide fun and educational activities. We feel very fortunate to have [childminder]".

The childminder knew children well, which supported them to build positive relationships. Basic information was recorded in personal plans, however these had not been reviewed and updated. Children would benefit from the childminder reviewing personal plans with families to ensure they have accurate, up to date information to meet children's changing needs (see area for improvement 1).

Children lacked consistency in their routines, which varied day to day as the childminder spent the majority of time in the community. As a result, children frequently fell asleep in pushchairs. These sleep arrangements did not fully align with best practice guidance. The childminder should review their sleep provision to support children's individual routines, care needs and to ensure they sleep safely (see area for improvement 2).

Mealtimes and snack times were planned dependant on where the service was being delivered from, for example in cafes, at the park or at the Den. Meals and Snacks were provided by families We discussed what the lunch time experience was like with the childminder and observed a snack time experience in the Den. All children were unable to sit around the small table which resulted in limited opportunities for social interactions during the snack experience. We suggested ways the childminder could enhance mealtime opportunities to promote positive outcomes for children. We spoke to the childminder about healthy eating guidance and how this could be implemented into the setting. This would ensure children experienced mealtimes that promoted healthy choices.

Children were encouraged to wash their hands on returning to the service and before eating, however practice was not consistent as not all children washed their hands. Consideration of effective infection prevention control routines need to be developed when out in the community. For example, handwashing at key points. This would ensure that children were protected from the spread of infection and that good hygiene routines were consistently embedded in practice (see area for improvement 3).

Areas for improvement

1. The childminder should develop the use of children's personal plans which should include the views of children and families and take account of the wellbeing indicators. These should be reviewed at least every six months.

This is to ensure I experience high quality care and support that is right for me and is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'My personal 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. To ensure children children's safety, emotional security and wellbeing are supported the childminder should develop and promote good sleeping habits, using current guidance.

This is to ensure I have confidence in the people who support and care for me and is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'I experience high quality care and support that is right for me and is based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice.' (HSCS 4.11).

3. To ensure children's safety and wellbeing were consistently supported, the childminder should strengthen infection prevention and control practices. This should include establishing effective handwashing routines at all key times. This will help reduce the risk of infection and promote positive hygiene habits for children.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice.' (HSCS 4.11).

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	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Leadership and management of staff and resources	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
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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