

Walker, Marion Child Minding

Aberdeen

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
13 June 2025

Service provided by:
Marion Walker

Service provider number:
SP2003900396

Service no:
CS2003001642

About the service

Mrs Walker is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children under the age of 16 years at any one time 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 the childminder's family. There were two children present at the time of the inspection.

The service is provided from the family home which is situated in Bridge of Don near Aberdeen. The children have use of the living room, the kitchen for eating and the bathroom. The upstairs bedroom is used when children require to sleep. There is an enclosed garden to the rear.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 13 June 2025 between the times of 08:25 and 14:15. 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 and complaint information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with children using the service and two of their parents/carers
- received three completed questionnaires
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and children's experiences
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children benefitted from warm loving interactions which promoted their wellbeing.
- Children were having fun and engaged in their play activities with the childminder.
- Children enjoyed being cared for in a warm and inviting homely environment.
- The childminder was reflective of their practice and committed to providing a quality service which met the needs of 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

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

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

How good is our care, play and learning?

5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Quality Indicator 1.1 - Nurturing care and support

Children's wellbeing was promoted through nurturing and loving interactions with the childminder. Positive attachments had been formed with children and parents all agreed that they had a good relationship with the childminder. A very good knowledge of individual children, their interests and preferences enabled the childminder to deliver responsive and individual care.

Children's privacy and dignity was supported when the childminder was changing nappies or supporting toileting. Children were given time to be independent when eating, allowing them to develop their self-help skills with support.

We observed snack time during our inspection visit, food offered at this time was well presented and in line with current nutritional guidelines. Children were involved in the serving of their food and in some preparation of food such as cutting their banana. The childminder should consider how to increase children's opportunities in this area such as spreading their own butter. Snack time was relaxed and sociable with the childminder sitting with the children supporting their communication and the building of relationships.

Children's wellbeing was supported as the childminder showed a good understanding of the need for sleep and rest. They knew the children's home sleep routines and used this knowledge to help settle them while reflecting parents' wishes.

Personal plans were used by the childminder to record children's needs and information needed to promote their health and safety. These were reviewed regularly with parents ensuring that the information was up-to-date and relevant.

Paperwork was in place to support the safe management of administration of medication should a child need it. We advised that the childminder could streamline this to ease access to information and minimise the potential for any confusion.

Children were kept safe as the childminder showed a very good understanding of their role in identifying, recording and referring any concerns they may have. They were confident in discussing factors which may impact a child's wellbeing and how they could offer support at these times.

Quality Indicator 1.3 - Play and learning

Children were happy and having fun with the childminder. They were confident in the routines of the day and in approaching the childminder for support, reassurance or to join in their play. The childminder was responsive to children's interests and supported them to express choices and lead their own play. Planned activities were in place, such as trips to park, and time to reflect children's routines.

Children's skills in numeracy and awareness of number were promoted in age-appropriate ways such as

simple counting within their routines and play. Other age-appropriate resources such as board games, puzzles and measuring tools were also available. The development of children's language was supported through interactions, songs and storytelling. Children could access books and mark making opportunities as part of their play. The childminder was responsive to the children's interests, for example, joining in when they started to sing and taking them to the garden when they wanted to be more active.

The use of local amenities such as parks and wooded areas were used to extend children's experiences and promote their connection with the community.

Children's progression was promoted through the recording of achievements and setting of goals or next steps. We asked the childminder to include the dates of when next steps were achieved. We discussed ways of evaluating the strategies used to support children's progression. This will enable the childminder to identify when a strategy may need to be changed. Information on children's experiences was shared with parents through daily discussions and digital information sharing as well as regular reviews. Parents told us they were happy with the activities offered to their children and felt involved in their care and learning.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Quality Indicator 2.2 - Children experience high quality facilities

Children were cared for in a comfortable homely environment which supported their health and wellbeing. The childminder took care to have rooms and resources ready for children when they arrived, supporting them to feel welcomed and settle into their day.

Indoor and outdoor resources reflected children's current interests and were accessible to children, supporting them to lead their play. The resources promoted children's safety as they were age and stage appropriate. There were open-ended resources which children could use in a variety of ways, some of which children had sourced themselves during walks. Children's health was promoted through regular outdoor play in the garden or the local community.

Children's safety was promoted through the management of risk. This included recorded assessments and the maintenance of resources and the premises. The risk assessments were regularly reviewed and we suggested involving children in this would further promote their awareness of risk.

Children's health was supported through the processes to prevent infection. These included handwashing at appropriate times, nappy changing which adhered to guidance and keeping surfaces clean. We asked that the childminder encourage children to use tongs or spoons when serving their own food rather than their fingers to further prevent any potential cross infections.

The privacy of children and their families was supported by the safe storage of information. This included storing paper files in a room away from children and visitors and password protecting any information held digitally.

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Quality Indicator 3.1 - Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The childminder had a statement of aims which they were intending to review to ensure it consistently reflected the care provided. We discussed ways of further involving children and families in this. This would provide opportunities for them to develop the service and raise their awareness of what was important for the childminder to meet individual children's needs.

All parents told us that they felt involved in their child's care and the development of the service. This was done through regular chats with the childminder as well as written surveys. Children were encouraged to engage in discussions about what they wanted to do and what they enjoyed or to draw pictures. The childminder responded to any suggestions or comments made, ensuring that parents and children knew their input was valued.

The childminder was committed to providing a high quality service and had evaluated it using the current quality framework. They had identified where there were strengths and where changes could be made. An action plan was in place to plan for developments in particular areas. The childminder was confident that changes had been positive. They should consider including a formal system of evaluation of changes made. This will support them in ensuring that changes continue to positively impact children's experiences and outcomes.

The childminder engaged well with the inspection process and was keen for any feedback to support the development of their service. This showed an ethos of continuous improvement which benefitted children through positive experiences.

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Quality Indicator 4.1 - Skills knowledge and values

The childminder understood the importance of positive attachments and relationships with children and their families. They recognised the importance of nurturing interactions to build these relationships. This supported them to promote children's health and wellbeing and ensure that they felt welcomed and valued.

Parents told us they were very happy with communication from the childminder about the service and their children's experiences. This effective information sharing supported the childminder in taking account of children's previous learning and experiences in the care offered.

The childminder understood the importance of reflecting on their practice and the impact it had for

children. They used current best practice guidance to support this reflection, promoting the provision of care based on recent research.

Children's confidence and positive experiences were supported as the childminder recognised the importance of them having fun. The aims of the service included that children should be happy and have experiences to support their self-esteem. The childminder was experienced and had a sound knowledge of how children learn and develop and used this when considering activities and how to support children.

The childminder recognised the importance of keeping up-to-date with any changes in guidance or legislation. They had attended various training sessions to support them in this and were enthusiastic in discussing their learning. We suggested that adding this information to action plans would support the childminder in ensuring that their learning always had a positive impact on children's experiences.

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

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good

How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good

How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	5 - Very Good

How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	5 - Very Good

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