

Rachel's little rainbows childminding Child Minding

Livingston

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
20 August 2026

Service provided by:
Rachel Sargent

Service provider number:
SP2018989678

Service no:
CS2018364374

About the service

Rachel's little Rainbows is a childminding service provided by Rachel Sargent from her two-storey home in Livingston. Children have access to the lounge, kitchen and an enclosed back garden. The toilet facilities are on the first floor. The service is close to local schools and nurseries. Other amenities, such as shops, parks and woodland walks are nearby.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 12 years, of whom a maximum of three are not yet attending primary school, and of whom no more than one is under 12 months.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Tuesday 18 August 2026 between 12:45 and 14:30. We concluded the inspection on Thursday 20 August when we gave feedback to the childminder at 12:45. 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 information, complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with two children and received three parents' responses to our electronic questionnaire
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice, and how children were supported with their routines and play
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- The childminder knew children well and supported their individual needs in a way that respected their rights and choices.
- Interactions with children were caring, kind and responsive to children's routines and needs.
- The childminder had established very good relationships with families.
- The childminder could further develop quality assurance processes by becoming familiar with guidance which support practice in childminding settings.

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	4 - 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 several strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

Quality indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources

The childminder had created a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment. This positive ethos enabled effective communication with families which meant they felt included and respected. They shared that the childminder was, "very approachable, always willing to listen." And they were, "always kept up to date with what my child has been doing." As a result, the childminder knew children well and supported them in daily life.

Some aspects of leadership and management were less well developed. For example, quality assurance systems were mostly informal. We discussed with the childminder how self-evaluation could be used more effectively to support improvement within the service. While the childminder had updated policies and procedures, they did not always reflect guidance for Scotland. Approaches to quality assurance and self-evaluation could be further developed to ensure improvements were in line with local and national guidance. To support this process, the childminder should become more familiar with 'A quality framework for early learning and child care sectors: childminding.' This would support more focused evaluation and improvement and strengthen outcomes for children and families. (See area for improvement 1).

Parents and children had mostly informal opportunities to share their views. For example, the introduction of an app had improved the level of information shared. To strengthen this approach, the childminder could evaluate the impact of using this. This would enable changes to be evaluated and demonstrate the outcomes for families. Where children share their views, or give suggestions for activities, it could be clearer how they were included in plans. Children could also be encouraged to reflect on their choices and share their experiences.

Areas for improvement

1. To improve outcomes for children, approaches to quality assurance and self-evaluation could be further developed. The childminder should become familiar with national and local guidance and use this to support her approaches to self-evaluation and planning for continuous improvement.

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 several strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

Quality indicator: Playing, learning and developing

The childminder knew children well and used this knowledge to provide experiences that were suitable for their age, stage and individual interests. For example, garden play, outings to the forest, playgroup and arts and crafts. These activities enabled children to use their imagination, curiosity and creativity. Children were making progress in their learning and development as activities were tailored to meet each child's current interests and development needs. Parents feedback included that as a result of their experiences, children had "developed many skills, grown in confidence and loves attending every day. They come home happy, excited to tell us about their day."

Children benefited from regular opportunities to be active and learn within the local community. Outings to parks, library and forest, helped children explore the natural environment, develop physical skills and learn about the wider world. These experiences also supported children's social development, confidence and understanding of how to keep themselves safe in different environments. One parent shared their child "Has great support in learning and developing skills in a safe and comforting way."

Information was gathered about children's progress and achievements. Development checklists, photographs and verbal updates were used to monitor children's progress. Six-monthly reviews reflected children's learning and enabled next steps to be identified. The childminder could continue to develop the use of observation to link planning to experiences and outcomes. Examples could be included to demonstrate progress. For example, what numbers or letters children recognise. This would help monitor progress and inform future plans.

Children are supported to achieve 5 - Very Good

We found major strengths in this aspect of the settings work, and identified very few areas for improvement; therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

Quality Indicator: Nurturing care and support

All interactions with children were consistently caring, nurturing and kind. This meant that positive attachments and trusting relationships with the childminder and each other promoted a respectful care setting. As a result, children's rights, needs and choices were respected and promoted. Children were happy, relaxed and confident in the childminder's care as they felt safe and secure.

Personal plans were in place for all children which contained information that helped meet their individual needs. Children's routines, needs and personalities were known and used to promote consistency of care for children throughout the day. For example, sleep time followed best practice, as children were settled on mats and regularly checked on. Children's overall wellbeing was promoted, as they were rested and ready to benefit from the experiences offered. Parents shared, "We are given opportunities regularly to develop and review their personal plan, to add to it and comment on aspects we would like added to it."

It shows that she (the childminder) knows our child well, as she makes it very personal to their needs and developments."

Effective communication with families meant that the childminder worked in partnership with parents. A child-centred approach was in place, as regular updates were shared with parents each day and at reviews. This helped parents feel included and involved, as they knew about their child's experiences. The childminder, therefore, demonstrated a good knowledge of children's interests, personalities and development. As a result, plans supported children to achieve.

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

In order to ensure children experience an environment that is safe and well looked after, the childminder should review and further develop her cleaning schedules, risk assessments and accompanying recording system, so they better reflect the needs of the service and take account of any unexpected events or changes.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care standards which state that: "I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well-maintained premises, furnishings and equipment." (HSCS 5.22); and

"My environment is secure and safe." (HSCS 5.17).

This area for improvement was made on 2 August 2019.

Action taken since then

The childminder had risk assessments in place for the environment and outings. We talked to the childminder about ensuring they were fully personalised for the service.

This area for improvement has been met.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.scot.

Detailed evaluations

Leadership	4 - Good
Leadership and management of staff and resources	4 - Good
Children play and learn	4 - Good
Playing, learning and developing	4 - Good
Children are supported to achieve	5 - Very Good
Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good

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