

# Stewart, Sally Child Minding

Glasgow

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
26 October 2022

**Service provided by:**

**Service provider number:**  
SP2007967115

**Service no:**  
CS2007162841

## About the service

Mrs Sally Stewart provides the childminding service from the family home in Cumbernauld in North Lanarkshire. The service's premises are situated nearby local schools, shops and community facilities.

The childminding service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of four 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.

Children have access to a lounge/dining room, kitchen and enclosed garden to the rear of the premises.

At the time of the inspection, there were five children registered to use the service, on a part time basis.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 12 October 2022 between 10:15 and 11:15, with feedback provided on 26 October 2022. 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:

- Gathered feedback from three families of children using the service;
- Spoke with the childminder;
- Observed practice and children's experiences;
- Reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- The childminder had formed positive relationships with the minded children.
- Children were happy, enjoyed cuddles, and felt safe and secure in the childminder's care.
- The childminder worked in partnership with parents to identify children's wellbeing needs, and planned appropriate care and support to meet these.
- The childminder was well informed about child development and kept themselves informed of good practice guidance.
- The childminder was skilled at listening to young children's voices, understanding their needs, and making sure they provided the right care and support.
- Children had access to a welcoming, clean and friendly homely environment. They had good access to outdoors and enjoyed regular outdoor play.

## 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?	4 - Good
How good is our setting?	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
How good is our staff team?	4 - Good

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

## How good is our care, play and learning?

4 - Good

We found several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children, and they clearly outweighed areas for improvement, therefore, we evaluated this key question as good.

### 1.1 Nurturing care and support

The children were happy, contented, and comfortable in the childminder's care. The children welcomed cuddles and affection, showing that they had a positive bond with the childminder. One parent told us that their child loves going to the childminder, even asks on days off if they can go. The childminder knew the children well. As a result, they provided a nurturing and caring environment where children can feel safe and secure.

Children's play was planned in response to their needs and interests. When in the childminder's home, the children made choices in what they wanted to play, for example, playing in garden, painting or riding bikes and go carts. Children also attended a local playgroup ran by the childminder. We were told by a parent that children enjoyed the playgroup, especially song time.

New children and families were welcomed into the service with care and compassion. The childminder considered each families' needs when planning their induction. Parents told us that the childminder was great, knew their children well, and supported them by providing care and support around their individual care needs. The children and families' needs were valued and respected.

Parents provided the children's meals. The childminder encouraged children to eat healthy foods, and to drink fluids throughout the day. Children either sat around the dining table or in highchairs. Mealtimes were a sociable part of the day.

The childminder had a medication administration procedure in place that met good practice guidance. They discussed their procedure which included recording of reasons, and agreed times of when medication should be given. When the childminder is updating the service written medication policy, they can find more information to help them on the Care Inspectorate Hub in 'Management of medication in day care of children and childminding services' guidance.

The childminder worked in partnership with parents to identify children's wellbeing needs and planned appropriate care and support. Each child had a personal plan in place which was reviewed regularly alongside parents. Several parents told us the childminder was very supportive of their child's personal care and preferences.

### 1.3 Play and learning

The service was operating on a part-time basis. The children's daily routine reflected their needs and interests. There was a good balance of play time between the childminder's home and being out in the local community. The childminder's weekly plan included visits to the local playgroup, which they also provided.

The childminder responded well to the children's needs, for example, positively interacting with children as they played, encouraging children's curiosity and supporting their preferred learning style such as playing hide and seek with toys.

The childminder was skilled at listening to young children's voices, and understanding their needs which ensured they provided the right care and support. This was further supported by the children's personal plans, which the childminder completed alongside parents, to identify and plan how best to support each individual child's wellbeing needs. The childminder had a good understanding of child development and regularly assessed children's progress. This ensured children's plans were right for them and set out how their needs would be met, as well as their wishes and choices.

## How good is our setting?

**4 - Good**

We found several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children, and they clearly outweighed areas for improvement, therefore, we evaluated this key question as good.

Children had access to a welcoming, clean, and friendly homely environment. The childminder's home was well ventilated, heated and had lots of natural light. The service was secure, a new front door had been fitted. The childminder agreed to review the risk assessment for the front door to ensure it followed good practice guidance. More information on this can be found on the Care Inspectorate Hub in 'Guidance for childminders on fire precautions in domestic childminding premises.'

Children were cared for mainly within the living room and dining area, which had direct access to the large secure garden. Children could select from a range of toys that were on offer and were easily accessible to them. Parents told us they found the house secure, safe and well resourced.

The areas within the home were risk assessed and we found safety measures were in place to keep children safe. For example, in infection control procedures and hand hygiene.

The children went on outings most days, including visiting the local playgroup. The childminder risk assessed all locations to ensure appropriate safety measures were in place and had appropriate resources. The childminder transported the children by car, they had the correct insurance and appropriate safety measures were in place.

## How good is our leadership?

**4 - Good**

We found several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children, and they clearly outweighed areas for improvement, therefore, we evaluated this key question as good.

### 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The childminder has been a childminder for 14 years. During this time, they had reflected and made changes to the service. The preferred method of self-evaluation had been informal. The childminder continues to reflect on feedback from those using the service. To support future planning for improvement, further helpful information can be found on the Care Inspectorate Hub within the 'Early learning and childcare improvement programme section.'

The childminder recognised and consulted with the children. Children were encouraged to make choices and direct their own play. The children's daily routine was planned in response to children's needs, wishes and choices.

The childminder kept themselves informed of good practice guidance and used this to review the service's policies and procedures. The childminder had links with other childminders and regularly discussed how best to implement good practice guidance.

## How good is our staff team?

**4 - Good**

We found several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children, and they clearly outweighed areas for improvement, therefore, we evaluated this key question as good.

### 4.1. Staff skills, knowledge, and values

The childminder was caring, kind and compassionate. They responded to the needs of the children with care and affection. When discussing children and their families, they did so with care and respect.

The childminder knew the children, their needs and provided personalised care. Each child's care was planned and considered their wellbeing needs. This demonstrated a good understanding of children's development and importance of providing nurture and positive attachments.

The childminder had kept themselves informed of childcare issues through links with other childminders. They demonstrated being well informed on running a childminding service. They held the required records and made changes to the service using good practice guidance, such as, infection control safety measures. The childminder should consider keeping a record of training and development that includes the impact on their practice.

## 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

To support children's health and wellbeing, the childminder should further develop children's written personal plans.

This should include:

- Clear information about their needs and how these will be met;
- Where children have specific health needs, clear information about their care should be agreed with parents/carers and recorded;
- Ensuring parents/carers and children, where appropriate, are involved in setting and regularly reviewing plans.

National Care Standards. Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 3 - Health and Wellbeing.

**This area for improvement was made on 23 March 2017.**

**Action taken since then**

Personal plans had been reviewed and further developed. Personal plans met the legislative requirements. This area of improvement has been met.

**Previous area for improvement 2**

The childminder should take positive steps to improve handwashing and nappy changing practices. This will minimise the risk of spreading infection in the service, and support children to form good hand hygiene habits.

National Care Standards. Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 2 - A Safe Environment.

**This area for improvement was made on 23 March 2017.**

**Action taken since then**

The childminder was found to be following good practice guidance. This area for improvement has been met.

**Previous area for improvement 3**

The childminder should report any relevant changes to the Care Inspectorate and ensure appropriate records are maintained in her service.

National Care Standards. Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 14 - A Well-Managed Service.

**This area for improvement was made on 23 March 2017.**

**Action taken since then**

The childminder had notified the care inspectorate as needed following the last inspection. This area for improvement has been met.

**Previous area for improvement 4**

The childminder should review and update the service's medication procedures, ensuring they reflect current good practice guidance.

This should include:

- The reason for medication and times when this is to be administered;
- Written consent to administer each medication should be time limited if medication has to be given on a 'when required' basis, details of symptoms should be recorded;
- Review consents regularly with parents/carers to check that the medication is still required, is in date, and that the dose has not changed.

National Care Standards. Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 3 - Health and Wellbeing; Standard 14 - A Well-Managed Service.

**This area for improvement was made on 23 March 2017.**

## Action taken since then

The childminder was able to verbally confirm the medication procedures for the service. These followed good practice guidance. 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.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).



## Detailed evaluations

How good is our care, play and learning?	4 - Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	4 - Good
1.3 Play and learning	4 - Good

How good is our setting?	4 - Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	4 - Good

How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	4 - Good

How good is our staff team?	4 - Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	4 - Good

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