

Christys Creche Child Minding

Glenrothes

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
28 October 2025

Service provided by:
Christy Dorans

Service provider number:
SP2023001464

Service no:
CS2024000109

About the service

Christy's Creche operates from their family home in Glenrothes, Fife. They are registered to provide a childminding service to a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age, of whom, no more than three are not yet attending primary school, and of whom, no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers include the children of the childminders family.

The service is close to schools and nurseries, green spaces, local amenities and can be reached by transport links. Children have access to an enclosed front garden, living room, kitchen and toilet facilities of the first floor.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Monday 27 October 2025 between 09:40 and 11:40. Feedback was shared following the inspection. This inspection was carried out by two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included 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 children using the service
- received six completed questionnaires from families.
- spoke with the childminder
- assessed core assurances, including the physical environment
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were relaxed, happy and engaged as they played.
- Children experienced warm, nurturing approaches from the childminder that supported their sense of safety and security.
- Children benefitted from a play space that had been structured to support them to make choices and lead their interests.
- Nearly all children had detailed personal plans in place.
- Self-evaluation and quality assurance systems were not embedded yet to support continued improvements.
- Policies and risk assessments need reviewed and updated to reflect the service and experiences.

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 thrive and develop in quality spaces	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children play and learn	4 - Good
Children are supported to achieve	4 - Good

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.

Quality indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources

Children experienced care and support from the childminder who promoted their vision for children to be safe, have fun and be happy in their care. We suggested they review their aims to ensure they are reflective of the service as it develops.

Quality assurance systems were not yet embedded to promote consistency in high quality care. For example, checking appropriate cover of insurance was in place for transporting children. Establishing a robust and effective approach would support the childminder to carry out regular assurances that promote positive outcomes for children.

Self-evaluation was at the early stages, involving informal discussions with families. The childminder had not yet evidenced feedback to support improvement planning. We signposted them to 'A quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding' (Care Inspectorate, 2025). Consultation with children and families should be part of self-evaluation for change. Establishing robust and effective processes would support continued improvements in the service (See area for improvement 1.)

The childminder had some policies in place since registering the service. We encouraged them to review these as part of the quality assurance processes to ensure information was reflecting the service and experiences offered and are in line with guidance and best practice. Ensuring families are fully aware of policy changes should be part of this process. We asked the childminder to consider how they would do this.

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure children and families benefit from a service that has robust quality assurance processes and engages in continuous self-evaluation to implement change. The childminder should refer to best practice guidance. This should include, but not limited to, gathering the views of children and families.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state: I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurances processes. (HSCS 4.19).

Children thrive and develop in quality spaces**3 - Satisfactory / Adequate**

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

Quality indicator: Children experience high quality spaces

Children experienced a welcoming environment. The childminder made effective use of the space that children explored. This gave a message that children mattered and play was important.

Resources were well maintained and accessible to children as the childminder had organised these to promote children to make independent choices and lead their play. As a result, children were engaged and having fun.

The childminder promoted outdoor play and exploration daily with visits to local parks, green spaces and attractions. Risk assessments were in place to promote children's safety and wellbeing indoors and when out. We found these needed reviewed and updated. This should include measures they would take to effectively reduce the potential risk of children accessing pet food, how they promote safe handling of pets and how they will ensure children's safety and wellbeing whilst on trips and outings (see area for improvement 1.)

Infection, prevention and control (IPC) measures were in place to support hand washing at key times, such as after personal care and before meals. We suggested the childminder access training to further support robust (IPC) practices to include the safe management of handling and caring for animals as children enjoyed interacting with the family pets.

The childminder stored information about children and families in the service and used an online platform to share learning and communicate. We advised the childminder to register with the Information commissioner's office (ICO) to ensure they are complying with legislation and best practice.

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure children's safety and wellbeing, the service should review and update risk assessments. This should include, but not limited to how they minimise potential risks in the setting, trips, outings and handling animals.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state: My environment is secure and safe (HSCS: 5.19).

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.

Quality indicator: Playing, learning and developing

The childminder understood how children learn and develop. Children were happy, engaged and leading their play as a result of opportunities they were able to access. Families told us "There is always planned activities ready for my [child]" and "They go on a lot of days out to different places or stay and play in the garden or home. There's never been a day my child hasn't come home happy to tell me about [their] day. As a result, families had confidence children experienced high quality play and learning.

Children were able to make independent choices in their play from a breadth of resources that supported them to be independent, use their imagination and create their ideas. The childminder gave children space and support to make decisions and use their voice. They supported children in a calm manner.

The childminder observed children's interests and offered opportunities and resources to support this. For example, children were interested in creating with the playdough, they were offered materials and resources to extend this and the childminder spoke with them about sharing resources. As a result, children were able to be creative and develop confidence through their interactions and experiences.

Children were able to develop their imaginative play, communication and language skills. They had access to books, small world resources, role play equipment and craft materials. This was also supported by regular visits to the library where children were able to borrow books and enjoy storytelling activities.

Children benefitted from a balance of intentional planning and responsive approaches to their ideas. The childminder planned activities linked to children's interests and seasonal events. They also offered children choices each day of how they would like to spend their time in the setting. Observations and pictures were shared with families through an online platform. The childminder also created albums of children's pictures of their time in the setting that they took home. We encouraged them to look at ways to document children's interests and opportunities so they can revisit these regularly and support them to consolidate their learning.

Children are supported to achieve 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.

Quality indicator: Nurturing care and support

Children and families had developed trusting relationships as children experienced warm, responsive care that was essential for their wellbeing. Families had regular opportunities to discuss their child's care, development and learning with the childminder. Most done this through informal discussions at drop off and pick up times. Families could choose to spend time in the childminders home to share information about their child and receive updates. All families agreed they had good relationships with the childminder. Comments included "Always friendly, reliable, takes care of my child to the best standards", "She is very informative, very friendly & bubbly", "A great comfort to have around your child" and "[the childminder] is friendly, approachable and supportive towards both myself and my [child]". As a result, families had confidence in the care provided as children were supported to grow and develop.

Children developed positive friendships with peers. Older children played with younger peers, this was positive in building connections, social skills and a feeling of safety and security. As a result, children were settled, happy and engaged in play.

The childminder had experience in food management and had completed their food hygiene training. Mealtimes were relaxed and unhurried, promoting a positive experience for children. Nearly all children brought their lunch with them. The childminder encouraged older children to help prepare lunch by placing foods onto plates before sitting at the table. We encouraged them to promote this opportunity with all children and where possible, engage them in preparing foods such as cutting fruits to minimise choking. When requested by families meals could be prepared to meet the child's individual routines. We signposted the childminder to register as a food business with the local authority to ensure they continue to follow best practice guidance in promoting children's health and wellbeing.

Nearly all children's individual needs, routines and preferences were detailed in their personal plan and been reviewed with families. We encouraged the childminder to involve children in reviewing their plan and deciding what their next step in learning would be. Having robust, detailed healthcare plans in place to support children who require medication is part of the personal plan and medication should be reviewed in line with guidance. We sign posted the childminder to the Care Inspectorates guidance on 'Management of medication in day care of children and childminding services (Care Inspectorate, 2024).The childminder must ensure that all children have plans in place and these are completed consistently with the correct information (see area for improvement 1.)

The childminder knew their children and families well. They created a warm and welcoming environment where children and families felt supported. To ensure families felt connected to the service, the childminder shared regular updates of children's play and learning online. Families told us "I have developed a really great relationship with her and the service she offers is one of the best out there" and "It's like a home from home, I am always invited in at drop off and pick up and even stay longer sometimes to chat about the day". As a result, families felt welcomed and connected to the service.

Areas for improvement

1. To promote children's health, safety and wellbeing, the service should have a consistent approach to reviewing, recording and updating personal plans, including children's healthcare needs in line with guidance.

This is to ensure that 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)

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care 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).

Complaints

Please see Care Inspectorate website (www.careinspectorate.com) for details of complaints about the service which have been upheld.

Detailed evaluations

Leadership	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Leadership and management of staff and resources	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children thrive and develop in quality spaces	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children experience high quality spaces	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children play and learn	4 - Good
Playing, learning and developing	4 - Good
Children are supported to achieve	4 - Good
Nurturing care and support	4 - Good

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