

Little Steps Childminding Child Minding

Glasgow

Type of inspection:
Announced (short notice)

Completed on:
16 October 2025

Service provided by:
Shamsa Ahmad

Service provider number:
SP2017989571

Service no:
CS2017362815

About the service

Shamsa Ahmad is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time, under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of six will be under 12, 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 own family members. The service is provided from a four bedroom detached villa located within the residential area of Darnley, Glasgow. Children have access to the lounge, kitchen and dining area and toilet while the enclosed garden provided an outdoor play space. The service is close to local shops, parks and travel links.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 16 October 2025 between 9:30 and 11:45. 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:

- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents
- spoke with the childminder
- spoke with two children using the service
- received electronic feedback from three families whose children attended the service
- assessed core assurances, including the physical environment

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

- The childminder had built strong relationships with children and families, creating a warm, nurturing and homely environment for children.
- The childminder had high aspirations for children, which supported them to reach their full potential.
- The childminder knew the individual care and support needs of all children in her care very well. She was caring, loving and supportive to all children throughout our visit.
- Children enjoyed a range of play experiences both within the childminder setting and the local community, which supported their learning and development.
- The childminder was welcoming and engaged well with the inspection process, they were responsive to improvement discussions.

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

Quality indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources

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.

The childminder was committed to providing the highest standards for children, and families. The aims of the service were embedded in the everyday experiences of children using the service. The childminder had developed a vision that promoted safe and nurturing approaches when caring for children. For example, recognising children's home routines and ensuring these were reflected within the setting. One parent told us "The morning routine it's well fitted to benefit my child's physical and emotional development. This is based around of his sleeping and eating needs." The childminder staff was committed to including all families in the design and review of their vision, values and aims.

The childminder told us that she kept up-to-date with best practice and legislation through Care Inspectorate and SCMA (Scottish Childminding Association) websites, magazines and publications. She met with other childminders on a regular basis and this supported their awareness and knowledge of childcare issues and developments in national best practice guidance. The childminder told it supported them to reflect on the quality of experiences they offered children.

Informal feedback was regularly sought from families to support the delivery of service and parents agreed they felt involved in the service. We discussed developing approaches to this including strategies for wider ranging consultation with parents across all aspects of service provision. We discussed how training records could be developed that more clearly demonstrated the link between professional learning and improved outcomes for children using the service. The childminder's commitment to professional development and training helped to assure parents that their children would receive appropriate support if and when they needed it. We highlighted strategies for sharing improvements that have implemented with parents so that they are informed of developments. This can enhance the systems already in place that ensure that parents and children were included in making decisions about the service and the service was relevant to each families' needs.

Children play and learn 4 - Good

Quality indicator: Playing, learning and developing

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.

The childminder had high aspirations for children, which supported them to reach their full potential. We observed how the range of play and learning experiences supported the development of children's language, literacy and numeracy skills. Throughout our inspection minded children made independent choices about where they wanted to play and what they wanted to play with. They could choose from a wide range of toys, jigsaws, games, books and craft materials, which were easily accessible at child height. These activities

offered the children opportunities to have fun and play and work together co-operatively. The childminder confirmed that toys and activities were changed on a regular basis to maintain the children's interest.

We found that regular energetic play activities including, ball games, wheeled toys, waterplay and planting vegetables were provided in the rear garden area. In addition, The childminder told us that they took the children on a variety of outings to local parks, swimming baths, a library and a community playgroup. These opportunities encouraged children to be physically active, to develop their understanding of the natural world and experience regular fresh air and exercise. They contributed to children's social development and helped to develop children's awareness of the world around them.

Photographs were used by the childminder to record and share children's chosen play experiences. This helped children to reflect on their planned activities and learning and have their achievements through play recognised. It contributed to children feeling their ideas were valued and respected, therefore building their self esteem. One parent told us: "I am sent pictures and videos of my child playing. They have a wide range of toys and plenty of living space." The journal photos and regular text updates kept parents informed about their child's progress and achievements. All parents who responded to our survey strongly agreed that they were fully involved and informed about their child's learning and development. Their comments included: "Perhaps adding a few more outdoor adventures or themed learning days would make it even more fun and enriching for the children." We highlighted the value of developing approaches for observing and documenting the play for children that were forward looking. These can help to capture the support that the childminder was providing that encouraged children's developmental progress through play.

Children are supported to achieve 5 - Very Good

Quality indicator: Nurturing care and support

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

The childminder had created a warm, welcoming and nurturing environment for children. We saw that all children were happy and settled with the childminder. Children's needs and requests were responded to in a pleasant and relaxed manner as they confidently made choices of where to play and what to play with throughout our visit. The minded children present during our inspection had clearly developed close bonds with the childminder and were confident to approach them for reassurance when needed. This demonstrated that children felt safe and loved within the setting. One parent commented: "I really appreciate the love, patience, and attention given to my child. The communication is excellent, and it's clear how much care and effort goes into making sure the children are happy and thriving. We feel very lucky to have such a wonderful childminder." Another parent told us: "My child really enjoys going to the childminder. They always come home happy and full of stories about what they've done. I love that the environment feels warm, caring, and like an extension of home?" it gives me peace of mind knowing my child is so well looked after."

We sampled children's personal plans and photo based learning journals and found that the childminder had completed these in partnership with parents and children. Plans were regularly updated and this ensured that they reflected children's ongoing individual needs and play preferences. All parents we consulted with strongly agreed that the childminder knew their child well, including what they liked and what was important to them. We discussed with childminder approaches that would support her to ensure that record

keeping was manageable and forward looking while remaining focussed on children's key care, support and learning needs.

The childminder discussed how she would safely administer medication and make sure that parents completed appropriate consent forms before this was given. This meant that children who had particular health needs would be included in the service and that their health and wellbeing were promoted.

The childminder showed confidence in telling us about the steps that she would take if she had any concerns about a child's welfare. We highlighted the importance of regular child protection and first aid refresher training to help ensure that knowledge and practice in relation to safeguarding issues was up to date. This can provide reassurance to parents that the childminder had up to date skills and capacity to proactively ensure the wellbeing of all children, including those who are most vulnerable.

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	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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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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