

# Joanne Fowler Childminding Child Minding

Leven

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
13 November 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Joanne Fowler

**Service provider number:**  
SP2011981245

**Service no:**  
CS2011280419

## About the service

Joanne Fowler provides a childminding service from their home in Leven, Fife. The service is registered to care for a maximum of six children under the age of 16 years, 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. Children have access to the living room, kitchen, a toilet and a safe enclosed garden. The service is within easy reach of local facilities including shops, parks and schools.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Tuesday 11 November 2025 between 10:00 and 12:00. We gave feedback by telephone on Thursday 13 November 2025. 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:

- spoke with one child using the service
- received feedback from four families
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

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

Children had lots of fun and interesting activities indoors and outdoors that helped them learn and grow.

Families told us that the childminder was kind, easy to talk to, and kept them well informed.

The service had clear aims to keep children safe, happy, and healthy, and shared these well with families.

Daily routines helped children feel safe and supported their independence.

Families were involved in planning and reviewing care, which helped everyone work well together.

The childminder looked for ways to improve, listened to feedback, and went on training; they were in the process of making a clear improvement plan for their service.

## 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	4 - 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 there were important strengths within the setting's work and some aspects which could benefit from improvement.

### Quality Indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources

The childminder had a clear vision and values that focused on keeping children safe, happy, and healthy. These were shared effectively with families, who understood and supported the approach. To ensure the vision and values remain relevant and useful, we suggested they be reviewed more regularly to reflect the changing needs of children and families. Families told us that they valued the service provided. Comments included "She is a genuinely caring, loving and intelligent woman - with expertise", "I'm completely comfortable talking to her about my child's care as she is always open and approachable", "Jo is thorough and professional. Couldn't ask for better".

The childminder demonstrated a commitment to improvement by seeking feedback from families and acting on suggestions. Regular training was undertaken to develop their knowledge and skills, and this was beginning to influence practice. We suggested that the childminder should reflect on how new learning could improve routines and experiences for children.

The childminder had started to develop a more formal approach to self-evaluation. Using the Quality framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding, they had been effectively assessing the quality of their service. The childminder was beginning to develop a written improvement plan and had identified strengths and areas for improvement within their service. This approach would allow the childminder to track progress and show the impact of any changes.

We discussed ways in which the childminder could use their Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) membership along with the Care Inspectorate Hub and online resources to further support their improvement journey.

The childminder had policies and procedures in place, which were regularly reviewed and updated to follow best practice and current guidance. These included a clear 'lost child' policy outlining the steps to take if a child left the service unexpectedly. This ensured that policies and procedures were effective in supporting the safety and wellbeing of children and providing reassurance to families.

## 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

Children experienced a wide range of fun and interesting activities both indoors and outdoors. These experiences encouraged exploration, creativity, and curiosity. The childminder interacted warmly with children, using open-ended questions to extend their thinking and learning. Children were able to make choices and lead their own play, which supported independence and confidence. The outdoor play space was safe and secure, children had requested another set of football goals. The childminder responded to this request quickly showing children their opinions and thoughts on the service were highly valued.

Children benefitted from a variety of resources and experiences that promoted literacy and numeracy. This was naturally embedded across the service and through meaningful interactions. The childminder encouraged the youngest children to problem solve and extended their language skills at a pace that was right for them. For example, we saw a variety of books and children regularly enjoyed story time to encourage communication skills of the youngest children.

Planning was based on children's interests and needs, and families were involved in sharing ideas. We asked the service to consider improving written records of observations and planning to better show how children's progress and next steps are being supported. Strengthening documentation could help ensure all children's learning is consistently tracked and celebrated.

We suggested that the childminder consider developing loose parts play to give children more opportunities for creativity and problem-solving. Loose parts are open-ended materials like natural items, recycled objects, and versatile resources that children can use in different ways. Adding these would encourage imaginative play, support learning and development, and help children work together.

## 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 were cared for in a warm and nurturing way that helped them feel safe, secure, and loved. The childminder used daily routines, such as mealtimes and personal care, to encourage independence and build positive and trusting relationships. Daily routines were adapted to meet each child's needs. The childminder followed home routines for personal care and sleep, and used 'Safe Sleep Scotland' guidance to ensure safe rest for all children. This consistent approach supported children's wellbeing and respected families' wishes. By creating a calm and respectful environment, children's overall wellbeing was well supported as the childminder met their individual needs with care and compassion.

The childminder provided a Community Childminding service through the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) referrals: they offered flexible, nurturing care to support families experiencing challenges. This specialised service promoted children and families' wellbeing by providing care in a safe and consistent environment.

Personal plans were in place and these were reviewed regularly with families. This approach supported good partnership working. We discussed ways to further strengthen personal plans. For example plans could be made more detailed and older children could be more involved in reviewing their own plans. This would further support children to feel valued, respected and listened to.

Families had regular opportunities to discuss their child's care, development, and learning both informally and formally. The childminder maintained effective communication through verbal and written updates and valued family input, recognising the influence of home and community on each child's development. This collaborative approach positively enhanced the quality of care and support for all children.

The childminder demonstrated effective safeguarding knowledge. They had completed relevant training, including child protection and first aid, giving them a clear understanding of how to identify, record, and report concerns. They had also reviewed their policy in line with best practice guidance. This approach ensured children's safety.

## 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

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	4 - Good
Nurturing care and support	4 - Good

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