

Mhairi's Fun Squad Child Minding

Larbert

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
7 November 2025

Service provided by:
Mhairi Lutton

Service provider number:
SP2023000253

Service no:
CS2024000013

About the service

Mhairi's fun squad is a childminding service provided by Mhairi Lutton. The service operates from the family home in Larbert. Facilities for children are on the ground floor. They have access to a lounge, dining area, fully enclosed garden and toilet. The home is well located for schools, parks and other community facilities.

The childminder may care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time up to 16 years of age: of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and; of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months.

Numbers include the children of the childminder's family/household.

Minded children can only be cared for by persons named on the certificate.

No overnight care will be provided.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Thursday 06 November 2025 between 09:15 and 11:30. We concluded the inspection on Friday 07 November when we gave feedback to the childminder. 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, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

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

Key messages

- The childminder interacted with children in positive and supportive ways which met their individual needs, rights and choices.
- Children had developed nice friendships and had fun as they led their own play.
- The childminder knew children well, understood their individual needs which meant they were well supported with their learning and development.
- The childminder should continue to develop personal plans and planning formats to evidence how children are supported to learn, develop and achieve.

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 thrive and develop in quality spaces	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 created a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment, which supported children to have positive experiences. This positive ethos enabled effective communication and partnership working with families which meant they felt included and respected. As a result they were actively involved and able to influence change. Parents shared that they were "Regularly asked for feedback back and (the childminder) discusses changes." And the childminder "Asks if the girls have any special interests so that she can relate to them and look to do relevant activities." To further develop self-evaluation, we suggested giving parents feedback after they shared views about the service.

Self-evaluation and quality assurance had been used to review the service and make improvements which benefitted children. An improvement plan detailed areas that had been developed to improve children's experiences and outcomes. For example, creating a stimulating environment by offering rich, varied and responsive play opportunities. A large shed had been added to the garden which offered children an additional space to play. Plans were in place to further develop the space which would give children a sense of ownership. We asked the childminder to continue to develop self-evaluation by assessing the impact of any changes made.

The childminder used national and local guidance to keep up to date with current practice. This enabled safe, nurturing and responsive care where children felt valued as their rights, needs and choices were respected. Formal and informal ways were used to gather parents and children's views. Moving forward, the childminder should start to use 'A quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding' to support practice. Referring to the quality indicators will help highlight any areas that could be further developed.

Children thrive and develop in quality spaces 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: Children experience high quality spaces

Children were cared for in an environment which was safe, organised and well maintained for them. This supported children to feel welcome as they had space for personal items and were able to access all areas.

Children's safety was promoted as appropriate safety measures and risk assessments were used to minimise risk. As a result, children could explore the areas indoors, outdoors or in the community. This enabled them to join in a range of play experiences safely.

Different spaces were used so children could play together or have quiet time. A large sofa offered children a place to relax comfortably if they wanted to. Resources were organised so that children could choose activities and influence the pace of the day. This enabled them to develop their games with the support of the childminder.

Infection prevention and control measures were in place to minimise the spread of infection. Use of personal, protective equipment (PPE) and hand washing supported good practice for personal care. We advised that increased hand washing should be encouraged to minimise spread of germs when children are suffering from coughs and colds.

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 had access to a variety of toys and games that promoted different play experiences. The activities available were suitable for the children present, met their needs, stages of development and interests. Parents shared that children "Play, craft, celebrate birthdays, chat about their days and have fun." And that children go "To farms, the safari park, local library and parks. There is also has age appropriate toys and books. In the summer kids learned about butterflies by getting caterpillars and growing them to butterflies." As a result, children were engaged in their play as they were motivated by the experiences offered.

Children had time and space to make informed choices about their play. The responsive approach of the childminder enabled children to extend and develop their games. Adding resources enabled children to develop their skills and abilities. For example, using small parts with the dough helped them develop their fine motor skills and use their imagination. The childminders responsive interactions supported children's development. For example, encouraging speech and language, socialising and learning to share while playing together. Praise was used to encourage children and help them achieve.

Importance was placed on play and learning taking place outdoors. The local community was well used to extend children's experiences. They could explore the natural environment as they had freedom to run around or play on large equipment, all of which supported their health and well-being.

Some observation, development records and photographs were used to show children's learning and progress. From this 'next steps' were identified to support children's continued learning and development. To strengthen this, the childminder should develop planning formats to show the range of experiences provided for children. This could include children's ideas, next steps and identify learning. It will enable children to progress at their own pace and develop skills for life.

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's routines, needs and personalities were known and used to promote an environment where they felt safe, loved and secure. This provided consistency for children throughout the day. For example, meals and snack, sleep time and personal care provided a stable approach to children's care. Procedures in place for personal care promoted children's privacy and dignity, which enabled their individual needs to be met. Children were therefore settled within the service, which promoted their overall well-being.

Personal plans were in place for all children and most contained information that helped meet their individual needs. Regular information was shared with parents each day and at reviews. Parents shared that "When we are working on something for our child's development, the childminder has then incorporated this into his day in her care." And the childminder "Discusses (child's) needs and preferences with us. She supports their individual needs." While we were confident that children's individual needs were met, personal plans for school age children could be further developed. We asked the childminder to include information about techniques or strategies used to promote positive experiences for children. It would enable them to be reviewed to ensure they are effectively supporting children. Linking information to the well-being indicators would help assess and plan for children's overall well-being.

Well established relationships with families were in place. Parents felt listened to and knew they could share information that would be used to support children. They said they valued her qualities of being "approachable and trustworthy" And "(the childminder) is very informative and keeps me in the loop. I love that she uses an app so I can keep a track of what my child is doing on the days he attends."

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 thrive and develop in quality spaces	4 - Good
Children experience high quality spaces	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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