

Christina Shanahan Childcare Child Minding

Forres

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
19 November 2025

Service provided by:
Christina Shanahan

Service provider number:
SP2023000284

Service no:
CS2024000028

About the service

Christina Shanahan is registered to provide a childminding service to 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 childminder's family/household.

The service is situated in a residential area of a town, close to some local amenities. Children are cared for in the conservatory which operates as a designated play room, the adjacent lounge is also used, mostly for quieter activities, rest and sleep. There is a downstairs toilet and kitchen/diner. A secure garden to the rear of the property is accessed directly from the playroom or kitchen.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 18 November 2025 between 11:45 and 14:45. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate. There was one child present at the inspection.

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:

- received two questionnaires from families
- spoke with the childminder
- assessed core assurances
- observed practice and daily experiences
- 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

- The childminder's home was welcoming and was maintained to a very high standard, it gave a strong message to children that they mattered.
- Children's wellbeing was enhanced by a focus on outdoor play that enabled them to explore to build self confidence and independence.
- Well considered innovations and creative approaches engaged children's imagination and enriched their play and learning, it also enabled them to explore and have fun.
- ,Children experienced warm, consistent and responsive care that fostered their wellbeing and development.
- The childminder's practice was built on the understanding that nurturing relationships were essential for children's growth and development.
- The childminder was establishing purposeful self-evaluation, that recognised the importance of gathering and using the views families. They were welcomed into the service that helped them to feel valued and supported.

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	5 - Very 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.

The service vision, values and aims were being embedded in everyday life and helped to inform the childminder's practice and how the service would be delivered. The ethos of the service was founded on principles of quality childcare, learning and building strong and reliable relationships with children and their families.

To help ensure that children and families were well informed and shared responsibility for changes, we advised the childminder to actively involve them in the future review and design of the vision, values and aims.

The childminder was in the process of establishing purposeful self-evaluation, that recognised the importance of gathering and using the views of families. The childminder was inviting parents to share their views about the service through a questionnaire. and during discussions. Where possible consideration should also be given to incorporating the child's voice. To help monitor continuous improvement and the difference made to children and families, we suggested that the childminder kept a concise record of changes they had made.

The childminder was completing an early years qualification that was providing an opportunity for reflection and the promotion of improvement. Further knowledge of local, national advice and best practice guidance would also help to support thoughtful changes.

Children thrive and develop in quality spaces 5 - Very Good

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

The childminder's home was welcoming and was maintained to a very high standard, it gave a strong message to children that they mattered. The child was listened to and was able to direct their play in the way they chose. The childminder made the best use of spaces and to create and enhance a motivating environment for the children. The playroom provided a variety of resources and play materials that catered to children's needs and interests. Furniture was well positioned in the adjacent lounge that supported quieter activities and rest. The childminder understood the positive impact that rich, multi-sensory play had on children's resilience and learning.

Children's wellbeing was also enhanced by outdoor play that enabled them to explore and build self confidence and independence. The young child was excited and filled with wonder, when being able to jump in puddles. As a result children were able to feel safe, secure and loved while they experienced play and learning. They were supported to develop their knowledge, respect and understanding of their community and the wider world. Parents shared: 'They have gone to lots of places such as the beach, farm, park and days out', 'they play and learn in the garden, learning, parks, playful garden, lots of time spent outside'.

The childminder prioritised children's safety whilst embracing a positive, balanced approach to risk in children's play. The childminder had familiarised themselves with SIMOA (Care Inspectorate Campaign to

keep children safe) they considered safety and security of the children, visitors and each other. As a result, children were safe and their opportunities to enjoy challenging and fun play experiences were not compromised. Efficient record keeping systems were in place and complied with relevant best practice and legal requirements.

The childminder had a clear understanding of arrangements for cleaning, food safety practice and infection and prevention control, that helped to promote a high quality, clean and safe environment. Where children required personal care, arrangements were effectively planned for and high levels of infection control such as hand washing and personal protective equipment (PPE) were implemented. Children's privacy, dignity and preferences were fully respected and appropriate spaces supported their care needs.

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.

The childminder had an understanding of how children developed and progressed in their learning. The young child was enjoying a variety of repeat play rolling toys down the slide and catching them when the childminder rolled them back up. Such play supported their brain development and learning. The child experienced play and learning that excited and engaged them as the childminder skilfully used their knowledge and practice.

Well considered innovations and creative approaches engaged children's imagination and enriched their play. The child was being helped to develop a broad range of skills including language, literacy and numeracy through their interactions with the childminder. They chose to look at a book about farm animals, they had fun as the childminder modelled the different sounds the made with them. During play with sensory objects such as translucent shapes and light up toys the childminder talked about colours, shapes and numbers with the child. The childminder gave the child time, space and the support they needed to make decisions and use their voice. Their quality interactions helped to extend children's interests.

The childminder used developmentally appropriate questioning and interacted and explored with the the child in a valuable way to build vocabulary and foster understanding. When the child wanted to create with building blocks, they chose to build a car. The childminder helped the child to develop their thinking of what they what they wanted to do and where to put the blocks. They were given praise for trying things out. The child was able to play at their own pace, having fun as they explored.

Careful observations and effective assessments were beginning to recognise and promote children's progress and achievements. Sharing these more widely with families and inviting them to share their knowledge helped to develop their understanding ,and plan for their child's journey. We suggested that the childminder streamlined their formats used for the purposes of assessment. This would help ensure that children's progress was easily identified and any additional supports were planned for and implemented.

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.

The childminder s practice was built on the understanding that nurturing relationships were essential for children's growth and development. As a result children experienced warm, consistent and responsive care

that fostered their wellbeing. The childminder balanced promoting independence with providing support where it was needed.

Children were able to enjoy food choices that were nutritious and aligned with dietary guidelines including Setting the table. Foods were culturally appropriate and safely prepared, and took account of any specific dietary needs, allergies or intolerances. Both the childminder and families provided meals based on parental choice. Fresh water was available to the child through the day and they were encourage to remain hydrated. The childminder considered daily routines such as mealtimes a a valuable opportunity to promote children's independence and enhance their experience. We discussed the benefits of children being involved, such as the delivery and preparation, where able.

Consistency in routines such as mealtimes, nap times and personal care provided children with a sense of safety and security. The childminder recognised that daily routines offered time to connect with children and support their growth and development. The childminder sat with the child at lunch time, pleasant conversations and gentle words of encouragement helped it to be a social and calm experience.

Children's wellbeing was supported through personal planning, the plan was tailored to each child's individual strengths, needs and interests. Children and families were meaningfully involved involved in their child's plan. We advised the childminder to ensure that any changes to a child's care were updated on the personal plan and to maintain regular review, that ensured they were suitable and effective. We discussed the benefits of chronologies that helped also helped with the identification of children's needs and directed action to support them well.

Ref: Practice guide to chronologies - [hub.careinspectorate.com](https://www.careinspectorate.com/hub/practice-guides/chronologies/)

The childminder knew their children and families well. They created a warm and welcoming environment where children and families felt valued and supported. Connections with families increased their engagement in the service, positively impacting the quality of children's experiences. The childminder had systems in place to support regular communication with families. Parents shared: 'Both ourselves and our child have formed a good relationship with our childminder', 'Tina is very welcoming and warm'.

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	5 - Very Good
Children experience high quality spaces	5 - Very 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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