

# Kilpatrick, Catherine Child Minding

Bellshill

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
11 November 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Catherine Kilpatrick

**Service provider number:**  
SP2006957794

**Service no:**  
CS2006117286

## About the service

Catherine Kilpatrick operates a childminding service from their family home in Bellshill, North Lanarkshire. They are registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide care to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16. These numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own family. At the time of inspection, seven children were registered and one was present.

Children are cared for in the living room and have access to a conservatory and a safe, enclosed outdoor area. The bathroom is located on the first floor.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 11 November 2025 between 11:00 and 14:00. 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:

- reviewed electronic feedback from three parents using our questionnaire
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and experiences
- assessed core assurances, including the physical environment
- reviewed relevant 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 experienced warm, nurturing relationships with the childminder, supporting their wellbeing and sense of security.
- Families received personalised care, tailored to meet their needs.
- Children's health and wellbeing was promoted through regular outdoor play and access to local parks and playgroups.
- The setting was clean, safe and well-maintained.
- Personal plans were detailed and reviewed regularly.
- Policies and procedures needed to be updated to reflect current best practice.
- Older children had choice and independence; younger children need more opportunities to develop autonomy and decision-making.

## 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 had started to review the service vision, they agreed to involve the children and families in this process. This demonstrated the childminder's commitment to partnership working. As a result, children and families would further develop trust and a sense of ownership in shaping their care.

To keep children safe, the childminder attended various training sessions. This included child protection and first aid. They had also kept informed of good practice documents. We discussed how using good practice guidance documents could further support improvement and sustain positive outcomes. For example, the childminder could use Realising the Ambition to support child-led play. This would enhance opportunities for children to make choices and lead their own learning. These improvements would help children build confidence, independence, and develop essential skills for future learning.

Risk assessments were reviewed regularly, and clear procedures for medication and accidents promoted children's safety. The childminder agreed to enhance medication storage arrangements by using separate, clearly labelled containers. This would ensure that medication was securely stored, yet easily accessible in an emergency, further safeguarding children's health and wellbeing.

A family dog was very much part of the household and contributed to the homely atmosphere. The dog was calm and had its own space for sleeping and eating which helped maintain a safe and relaxed environment. The childminder had clear routines and risk assessments in place. These ensured the dog's presence did not interfere with children's play. They also prevented any compromise to infection prevention and control measures. As a result, children benefited from a sense of comfort and security, while learning respect for animals and developing positive, trusting relationships in a safe environment.

Policies and procedures were in place, and were last reviewed in 2017. We asked the childminder to review and update them to reflect current guidance and best practice. This should include Care Inspectorate contact details to the complaints policy, and the development of a missing child policy. This would further support families to feel confident that clear procedures were in place to protect children's wellbeing. Self-evaluation was ongoing, and the childminder showed readiness for making this process more structured to demonstrate how feedback led to improvement. This would further enhance the responsive service where children and families needs are met consistently.

## 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.

Children experienced a variety of play opportunities that supported their learning and development. Indoors, children accessed a range of toys and materials, including books, puzzles and construction sets. Outdoors, they enjoyed fresh air and active play in a safe, enclosed garden. The stimulating environment promoted creativity and curiosity, helping children build social and communication skills while enjoying active, healthy play.

Play experiences were varied and enjoyable. Older children could choose resources from the garage, such as Lego and colouring activities, which promoted independence and respected their preferences. Younger children responded positively to praise, showing they felt valued and listened to during play. To strengthen child-led learning for all children, the childminder should increase opportunities for choice and independence. This could include introducing open-ended resources, which encourage creativity, problem-solving and imagination through flexible use. Involving children in planning activities would further support autonomy and help them influence their play and learning experiences. Increasing the range of choices for younger children would give them the same autonomy as older children, promoting confidence, creativity and deeper engagement in learning.

The childminder demonstrated a good understanding of child development and was observed engaging in nurturing, caring interactions. Their experience in supporting children with additional support needs enabled them to provide tailored care that met individual requirements. As a result, children experienced a safe, inclusive environment where they could thrive, build confidence and develop skills appropriate to their stage of learning.

Children were supported to develop their skills in language, literacy and numeracy through the range of activities offered. For example, books and colours were promoted during play. We observed a child selecting rings to stack, with the childminder offering language such as, "you have the red one" and counting aloud, "one, two, three". This approach encouraged children to engage confidently, promoted curiosity and built the foundations for future progress and development.

## Children are supported to achieve 5 - Very Good

### Quality indicator: Nurturing care and support

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

Children experienced a high level of nurturing care from the childminder, who demonstrated a clear understanding of attachment and nurturing approaches. This knowledge was used effectively to build strong relationships and promote a sense of security. Interactions were consistently warm, kind and responsive, helping children feel safe and valued. For example, the childminder encouraged a child to take supported steps, praising each attempt and celebrating progress. This approach boosted confidence and supported physical development.

Parents spoke very positively about the service. One parent said, "[Childminder] sends daily updates about my child's day. I really like that they go to swing parks and socialise in other settings." Another commented, "the kids love [the childminder and their] family; they are made to feel very welcome."

These views confirmed strong relationships and effective communication with families, which helped parents feel reassured and involved.

Personal plans were detailed and reflected children's interests, preferences, and developmental needs. Plans were reviewed every six months, and parents were encouraged to contribute to updates. While written feedback from parents was limited, verbal engagement was strong and ongoing. The childminder used messaging and informal conversations to share progress, which parents valued. This partnership approach ensured care was tailored and responsive.

Routines were flexible and responsive to individual needs, allowing children to rest when tired rather than following a rigid schedule. These approaches promoted children's wellbeing and supported positive emotional regulation. We discussed the importance of avoiding sleep in buggies, as this does not align with current best practice. The childminder agreed to review arrangements and discuss with parents.

Transitions were managed thoughtfully, helping children settle quickly and feel secure. The childminder worked closely with families to support smooth transitions between home, nursery and the service. This helped children adapt confidently to changes in routine.

Children's health and wellbeing were well supported. Fresh water was available during meals and snacks, and we discussed making it more accessible throughout the day to promote hydration. Healthy snacks were encouraged in partnership with parents, supporting positive eating habits and wellbeing.

## 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	5 - Very Good
Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good

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