

Julie Findlay Childminding Child Minding

Ardrossan

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
6 November 2025

Service provided by:
Julie Findlay

Service provider number:
SP2016988140

Service no:
CS2016348098

About the service

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children up to the age of sixteen years, of whom, no more than three children are not attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The service is provided from the childminder's home in the town of Ardrossan. The family home is situated within a residential housing area and is close to public transport links and local amenities. Children are cared for in the lounge and kitchen at ground floor level and bathroom on the upper floor. There is a large garden at the rear of the property.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 5 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:

- observed and spoke with children using the service
- received electronic questionnaire feedback from two families
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

At the time of inspection there were four children present, and five children registered with the service.

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, improvements were identified relating to core assurances. We have reported where improvement is necessary within leadership.

Key messages

- The childminder engaged well with the inspection process and was keen to make positive changes.
- The childminder was at the early stages of planning for improvements using self-evaluation processes.
- Overall, children were happy and busy at play during our visit. The childminder's interactions during play were positive and encouraging.
- Children would benefit from daily outdoor play and more exciting experiences that spark their curiosity.
- Children would benefit from the development of sociable and nurturing mealtime routines that promote healthy choices.

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	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children play and learn	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children are supported to achieve	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

Leadership 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

We evaluated this quality indicator as satisfactory/adequate where strengths just outweighed the weaknesses.

Leadership

The childminder had given some consideration to what they valued in their service. They had developed positive relationships with children and families and were keen to provide a quality service with children and families at the heart. We suggested developing a shared vision, values and aim for the service with children and families. This would help to develop a meaningful approach to improvement and service delivery that reflects their needs and views.

The childminder engaged well with the inspection process and was keen to make positive changes. They were in the early stages of developing a process to evaluate their service and requested support in this area. We discussed strengthening their reflections through using an evaluative framework such as the Childminding quality indicators from the Care Inspectorate Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors. We advised the childminder to include children and families in this process. This would help them to identify improvements related to the needs and choices of children and their families.

The childminder had identified some areas for development in their service. They planned to improve their garden and develop new storage in their living room to increase the range of resources easily available for children. These were in the process of being implemented and would benefit children's play experiences. We discussed the importance of using quality assurance processes to ensure that their policies and procedures are reflected in practice. Whilst the childminder had both pet and infection prevention control policies, these were not always implemented. For example, pet feeding bowls were stored within children's reach and surfaces were not always cleaned prior to use. We asked the childminder to develop and implement a clear risk assessment to ensure robust infection, prevention and control procedures are followed (**see area for improvement 1**). This would help to ensure children's safety. The childminder had not completed the appropriate fit person checks for all adults living in their home. This was completed prior to the conclusion of the inspection.

Areas for improvement

1. To support children's health and wellbeing, the childminder should develop and implement a risk assessment for their pets. This should include but not be limited to, infection prevention and control procedures and the storage and maintenance of pet equipment.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that, 'My environment is secure and safe' (HSCS, 5.10).

Children play and learn 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

We evaluated this quality indicator as satisfactory/adequate where strengths just outweighed the weaknesses.

Playing, learning and developing

Overall, children were happy and busy at play during our visit. One parent told us, "She's a lovely person, my [child] runs in the door which tells me [they're} having the best time in there." Children enjoyed playing with dolls and drawing. This meant they had fun playing with some resources that reflected their interests. At times, some children were not engaged in play. Although the childminder attempted to offer support and re-direct them, they lost interest quickly. The childminder recognised that play experiences could be more exciting for children. They had began to install new storage units and planned to develop their resources. This would help to offer more variety in daily play experiences.

The childminder had recorded some observations of children's engagement in experiences such as an outdoor toy car wash and dressing up. We suggested using observations of children's play to plan for extending their opportunities. This would spark children's curiosity and enhance their experiences.

Children did not have access to the childminder's garden at the time of inspection. The childminder told us that their garden was not currently safe due to requiring maintenance and de-cluttering (**see area for improvement 1**). This had been included in their improvement plan. Whilst the childminder planned visits to local parks in the meantime, children would benefit from daily opportunities to choose to play outside.

The childminder's interactions were positive and encouraging. They supported children to identify colours and numbers while playing a card game. This helped them to develop their numeracy skills through play. The childminder recognised how playing helped children to develop skills for life and learning. They had recently implemented a progress summary sheet to monitor children's development. We suggested including families in this process and developing meaningful next steps. This would support children to reach their full potential.

Areas for improvement

1. To support children's health and wellbeing, the childminder should provide children with a safe, well-maintained environment to play outdoors daily. This should include but not be limited to, ensuring the garden is clean, safe and well-maintained.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'As a child, I play outdoors every day and regularly explore a natural environment' (HSCS 1.32).

Children are supported to achieve 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

We evaluated this quality indicator as satisfactory/adequate where strengths just outweighed the weaknesses.

Nurturing care and support

The childminder had developed close relationships with children and knew them well. One parent told us, "She is very flexible & she is very patient! And my kids love her." Children approached the childminder for comfort and cuddles. This helped them to form secure attachments. We discussed developing clear, positive strategies for individual children who may need support to regulate their emotions. This would further support children's wellbeing.

Whilst the childminder knew all children well, personal plans were missing key information and had not been reviewed with families. The childminder had recently introduced a new format for personal planning. We discussed the importance of ensuring that all children have a fully completed personal plan in place that is reflective of individual strengths, needs and interests (**see area for improvement 1**). This will ensure children's wellbeing is supported through effective personal planning.

Children would benefit from improvement to their mealtime experiences. Children ate snacks from home and biscuits provided by the childminder when they felt hungry. We discussed the benefits of developing a sociable and nurturing mealtime experience (**see area for improvement 2**). We advised the childminder to promote healthy snack choices and sit together whilst eating. This would support children's safety, health and wellbeing.

The childminders understood that each child's development is shaped by their family, friends, community and experiences. Children were well supported through transitions and key events in their home lives. The childminder recognised the importance of flexible settling in periods and regular information sharing. This was done through text messages and discussions at drop off and collection times. This supported a collaborative approach and helped families feel included in their child's day. We advised the childminder to invite families into their home during drop off and collection times, this would further support the development of strong connections.

Areas for improvement

1. To support children's health and wellbeing, the childminder should ensure that all children have a fully completed personal plan in place. These should be developed with children and their families, and reviewed within the required timescales to effectively monitor children's progress. Plans should include amongst other things, clear details of individual children's needs, preferences and choices.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'My personal plan is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15).

2. To support children's health and wellbeing, the childminder should develop their mealtime routines. The childminder should support children to experience a sociable and nurturing mealtime experience that promotes health eating choices.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that: 'I can enjoy unhurried snack and meal times in as relaxed an atmosphere as possible' (HSCS, 1.35).

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	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Leadership and management of staff and resources	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children play and learn	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Playing, learning and developing	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children are supported to achieve	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Nurturing care and support	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

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