

Clark, Isobel Child Minding

Airdrie

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
16 January 2026

Service provided by:
Isobel Clarke

Service provider number:
SP2003902591

Service no:
CS2003004588

About the service

Isobel Clark provides a childminding service from their property in a quiet residential area of Chapelhall, in Airdrie. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of six children 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 are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The service is close to local primary schools, shops, parks and other amenities. Children are cared for in the living room and open plan kitchen area. Toilet facilities are located upstairs. Children also have access to a rear garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 20 January 2026 between 15:30 and 17:30. 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 two children using the service
- spoke with the childminder and the assistant
- spoke with two parents
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children were happy, settled and confident in the childminders care.
- Personal plans should be developed in-line with guidance.
- Quality assurance and self-evaluation processes could be further developed.
- The childminder was supported by a knowledgeable assistant who understood their roles and responsibilities.
- The childminder had built strong and trusting relationships with families and demonstrated sensitivity to children's needs and emotions.

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	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 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

Quality Indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources.

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

The childminder had created a warm and nurturing environment for children. A welcome policy was in place and shared with new families. This highlighted the importance of children receiving a warm welcome and being encouraged to share their own ideas. However, the vision not been reviewed in some time. Children and families should be actively involved in shaping and reviewing the service's vision, values and aims to ensure these reflect their needs, wishes and preferences.

The childminder had formed positive relationships with families and communicated effectively, helping families feel well informed about their children's experiences. This was achieved through text messages and face-to-face discussions.

The childminder was supported by a knowledgeable assistant who understood their roles and responsibilities. Their warm approach contributed to the welcoming ethos, where children were valued and respected. They demonstrated a extensive experience of working with children and strong knowledge of nurture, attachment and additional support needs. This helped them meet the needs of individual children.

Whilst no formal systems were in place for self-evaluation, the childminder responded to the needs and interests of the children. For example, they regularly asked children about their daily choices. Moving forward they could consider more formal ways to support self evaluation and quality assurance. This will help them evaluate what is working well and make positive changes to improve outcomes for children and families. We signposted the childminder to the 'Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding' to support ongoing self-evaluation and improvement. An area for improvement was identified at the last inspection in relation to this and will be repeated at this inspection.

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 attended for short periods of time after school hours and enjoyed spending time at the kitchen table, drawing and playing games. Younger children enjoyed playing on the carpet area with dolls and books. The childminder told us children could change resources and play materials as they wished, and additional toys were stored in the hallway. For example, books, soft toys and board games. We discussed how the storage of toys and materials could be reviewed to make them more easily accessible when children are attending the setting.

Children had fun as they played together, which helped promote their social skills. They were encouraged to develop their interest of singing and dance, supporting their confidence and self-esteem. The childminder listened to children's ideas and supported them to develop their imagination as they invented games using

digital technology. This helped children feel valued. The childminder was aware of the importance of encouraging children to access other types of play activities, helping reduce time spent on screens, which can limit children's play experiences.

The childminder knew children well and respected their individual needs and preferences. Their responsive interactions supported children to make decisions and promoted their language skills. However, no information was gathered through personal plans to capture children's achievements, progress or interest. Developing this could help children recall past experiences and support the childminder in planning rich and challenging play experiences.

Children are supported to achieve 4 - Good

Quality indicator: Nurturing care and support.

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 were cared for in a warm and nurturing homely environment. The childminder had warm and caring interactions, which helped children feel loved, safe and secure. Families told us their children enjoyed spending time with the childminder and attending the setting. As a result, children were settled, happy and comfortable, which contributed positively to their overall wellbeing.

The childminder had built strong and trusting relationships with families and demonstrated sensitivity to children's needs and emotions. They knew children well, which supported them to know about their interests, likes and dislikes. Children could choose to play on their own or others, depending on their preferences. This positively supported their social skills.

Children were offered a snack when they arrived at the setting and could choose from a range of foods. They told us they liked sandwiches, pizza, crackers and fruit. Children accessed water when they wished helping ensure they stayed hydrated.

The childminder took time to get to know children and families when they first started. Relaxed pick-up routines allowed families to enter the home and share information, strengthening communication and continuity of care. While the childminder knew children well, approaches to personal planning were not yet fully developed.

We made an area for improvement at the last inspection to develop personal plans for each child in line with current guidance. Plans should be developed to include meaningful information to support children's needs, choices and wishes. Children and families should be meaningfully involved in developing and reviewing personal plans. As a result, we have repeated the area for improvement made at the last inspection. The childminder agreed to action this.

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

To ensure that children's needs, wishes and choices are met, the provider should ensure that personal plans are written and reviewed regularly with children and parents. This should include, but is not limited to, recording and evaluating children's progress and identifying next steps in learning and development.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that:

'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care 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).

This area for improvement was made on 18 April 2024.

Action taken since then

The childminder had not yet actioned this area for improvement. Whilst they knew children well there were no personal plans in place.

Therefore this area for improvement will be repeated.

Previous area for improvement 2

To ensure that quality assurance processes impact positively on outcomes for children, they should be developed to help identify and inform improvement planning.

This should include, but is not limited to, developing self-evaluation processes, actively seeking views from families and children, updating policies and procedures and reflecting on best practice guidance.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes'. (HSCS 4.19) and; 'I am actively encouraged to be involved in improving the service I use, in a spirit of genuine partnership (HSCS 4.7).

This area for improvement was made on 18 April 2024.

Action taken since then

This area for improvement has not been actioned. We discussed where some policies and procedures should be reviewed and we signposted the childminder guidance to support with self evaluation and quality assurance.

Therefore this area for improvement will be repeated.

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	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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