

# Little Raes of Sunshine Child Minding

Carnoustie

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
13 January 2026

**Service provided by:**  
clare rae

**Service provider number:**  
SP2016987875

**Service no:**  
CS2016345892

## About the service

Clare Rae provides a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 12, 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. Other conditions unique to the service include, minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate and overnight care will not be provided.

The service is provided from the childminder's home in a quiet residential area of Carnoustie. The service is close to local primary schools, parks, shops and other amenities. Children are cared for in a dedicated playroom, living room and kitchen/dining area. Children also have access to an enclosed rear garden.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 13 January 2026 between 09:25 and 12:50. This inspection was carried out by two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year. To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke/spent time with three young people using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- assessed core assurances, including the physical environment
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents
- we offered families the opportunity to share their views of the service through Microsoft forms. No feedback was received on this occasion.

At the time of this inspection, improvements were identified relating to core assurances. We have reported where improvement is necessary within Children thrive and develop in quality spaces.

During this inspection we gathered specific information to help us understand more about how services support children's safety, wellbeing and engagement in their play and learning. This included reviewing the following aspects:

- staff deployment
- safety of the physical environment, indoors and outdoors
- the quality of personal plans and how well children's needs are being met
- children's engagement with the experiences provided in their setting.

This information will be anonymised and analysed to help inform our future work with services.

## Key messages

- Children were happy, content and confident in the childminders care.
- Infection prevention and control measures should be improved to ensure children's overall wellbeing is maintained.
- Personal plans for children should be reviewed in line with current guidance and ensure all plans are in place to support the childminder in keeping children safe.
- Policies and procedures should be reviewed to ensure best practice and guidance is followed to promote with the effective and safe running of the service.
- Quality assurance processes and improvement plans should be developed to ensure children experience high - quality play and learning experiences.
- Children had opportunities to explore their local community which gave them a sense of belonging.

## 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	2 - Weak
Children thrive and develop in quality spaces	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 2 - Weak

Quality indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources

We made an evaluation of weak for this quality indicator, as there were some strengths, but these were compromised by important weaknesses.

Positive connections with families were established through regular communications within online platforms, for example a closed Facebook page. The childminder had aims and objectives in place for their service. Although aspects were reflected within the service, the childminder would benefit from reviewing these in consultation with families and children. This would help the childminder to develop their service further in a meaningful way to help improve outcomes for children (see area for improvement one).

Quality assurance and self-evaluation systems were not yet in place to promote high-quality care. Improvements within the service had not been identified or actioned. We discussed with the childminder ways to identify and document improvements within the service, for example within a diary. This would help the childminder to ensure their service is continually providing children with challenge, meeting their needs and improving outcomes and experiences. An area for improvement had been identified within the previous report. This has been reworded and is reflected in this report (see area for improvement one).

Policies and procedures were mostly in place, that supported the childminder with the running of the service. Some policies and procedures should be developed or reviewed. A missing/lost child policy should be developed including a clear procedure to follow in the event a child goes missing. Policies, including the infection prevention and control policy, pet policy and medication policy, should be further developed to improve the childminders practice and take account of current practice guidance. Risk assessments should be updated to show how changing circumstances within the childminders home are assessed to minimise risk to children. An area for improvement had been identified within the previous report. This has been reworded and is reflected in this report (see area for improvement two).

### Areas for improvement

1. To ensure a high-quality service for children and families, the childminder should develop effective quality assurance and self-evaluation processes.

This should include, but is not limited to:

- develop a system that supports the childminder to identify, track and highlight improvements
- develop a system that supports the childminder with monitoring tasks and actions that are required to be completed throughout the year, such as personal plan reviews
- seeking children and families' views through regular consultations to help shape improvements within the service.

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

'I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed' (HSCS 4.23) and 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

2. To ensure the wellbeing and safety of children using the service, the childminder should further review and update the services risk assessments, policies and procedures.

This should include, but is not limited to:

- developing policies and procedures that would support the childminder in the event of an emergency
- ensure when reviewing policies current best practice guidance is used to ensure correct procedures and practice is followed
- develop and update risk assessment to ensure the changing circumstances within the childminders home are [JL3.1] reflected and appropriately assessed
- develop risk assessments to ensure all risks within the home are assessed appropriately. This should include pet care and infection prevention and control.

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

'My environment is secure and safe' (HSCS 5.19).

## Children thrive and develop in quality spaces 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

Quality indicator: Children experience high quality spaces

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

The childminders home was warm and welcoming. The use of low lighting helped to create a calming feel. Children had dedicated spaces to keep their belongings which gave them the message that they mattered.

Children had a dedicated play space where they explored their play ideas. There was a large number of toys and resources within this space, which restricted how children used and explored resources. The childminder shared that they rotated access to different resources. We suggested that the childminder consider the organisation of the dedicated area. This would support children to thrive and be appropriately challenged.

Some infection prevention and control measures were in place. For example, children washed their hands before having their snack and pets were put into a different room while children experienced mealtimes. These measures should be further developed. For example, the placement of animal resources, such as the cat litter tray and nappy changing facilities. This would further reduce the risk of the spread of infections throughout the service (see area for improvement one).

Children were mostly kept safe with effective risk assessing carried out. Risks were reflected within risk assessments that captured potential hazards, level of risk and measures put in place to minimise risk. These were reviewed annually. These should be developed further to ensure all risks within the home were assessed appropriately.

For example, how pets were cared for and procedures in place that supported effective infection prevention controls measures (see area for improvement two in leadership of management and resources).

## Areas for improvement

1. To minimise the likelihood of the spread of infection, the childminder should ensure appropriate measures are in place throughout the service.

This should include, but is not limited to:

- developing daily procedures and practices for cleaning out animal litter trays or cages
- developing a system that supports the childminder to use appropriate areas for intimate care, such as where nappy changing takes place
- ensuring areas where pets are kept throughout mealtimes is cleaned at least daily
- ensure policies and procedures are followed to promote effective infection, prevention control measures.

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

'I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well-maintained premises, furnishings and equipment' (HSCS 5.24).

## Children play and learn 3 – Satisfactory / Adequate

Quality Indicator: Playing, learning and developing

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

Children had opportunities to lead their play and learning. Resources available to children to explore, were not always easily accessible to them. They were stored in high units or stacked in front of other resources. Children were observed playing with toys they could easily access, for example, a wooden kitchen. However, children were unable to extend their interests further due to missing resources, such as little cups when making their tea. We encouraged the childminder to consider reviewing how resources were stored and what was readily available to children. This would help children to develop their independence and play ideas further.

Children's interests were followed at times which helped extend their learning. For example, the childminder shared that activities, such as arts and crafts, were developed in the home, after attending groups. Pictures of what children had been playing with or where they had visited were shared with families through online platforms. This helped to keep parents informed of their children's experiences. The childminder would benefit from tracking children's interests, learning and development. This would help them identify appropriate next steps to ensure children were challenged in a way that is right for them (see area for improvement one).

Children had opportunities to explore their community in meaningful ways. The childminder attended regular groups with children.

This included toddler groups, trips to the library and meeting with other childminders within the local area. These opportunities helped to enhance children's play, development opportunities and their social skills.

### Areas for improvement

1. To ensure children are appropriately challenged and their interests influence their daily experiences, the childminder should develop processes that track children's interests, learning and development.

This should include, but is not limited to:

- developing planning processes that support the childminder to reflect on children's daily experiences and interests, such as a diary and floor book
- develop processes that track children's learning and development, including appropriate next steps.

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

'I experience high quality care and support because people have the necessary information and resources' (HSCS 4.27) and 'As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I choose, and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity' (HSCS 2.27).

### Children are supported to achieve 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

Quality indicator: Nurturing care and support

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

The childminder knew the children in their care well. They shared that they have supported a number of families for a number of years, where younger siblings now attended. Children were confident to seek comfort or help from the childminder. This meant that trusting relationships had been established between the childminder and children.

Children's mealtime experience was mostly sociable and relaxed at the beginning. They sat together around a table in highchairs, where the childminder joined them. Children were given choice of what they wanted from their packed lunch boxes for snack time. The childminder engaged in some conversations with the children while they sat together. Animals were kept away from the eating areas while the childminder prepared these areas and while children ate. This helped to reduce the risk of pets accessing spaces with food while children ate.

At the time of inspection, there were missed opportunities for the childminder to further develop nurturing interactions with some of the children. For example, children were rushed to finish their snack as the childminder became task focussed. Following children's lead on daily routines would further support the childminder to continue to develop consistent nurturing approaches with all children.

Personal care such as nappy changing was provided to children within the living area, next to pet cages.

We discussed with the childminder to consider how this could be improved, for example using the bathroom area. This would ensure children's dignity and respect was supported and reduce the risk and spread of infection.

Personal plans were in place for most children. The childminder had basic information such as, emergency contacts and medical information for children who's personal plans were waiting to be returned. We discussed with the childminder the benefits of ensuring personal plan information was returned while the child attended the service. Other children had personal plans in place, however these were not reviewed in line with legislation. The childminder should now ensure personal plans are reviewed with families in line with legislation to ensure appropriate care is provided for children. A previous area for improvement was made at the last inspection and will be continued (see 'What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at, or since the last inspection').

## 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 mealtimes provide a positive social experience and children are given effective supervision, the childminder should sit with children as they eat.

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

'If I wish, I can share snacks and meals alongside other people using and working in the service if appropriate' (HSCS 1.36).

**This area for improvement was made on 2 August 2024.**

#### Action taken since then

The childminder sat with children as they ate during the mealtime observed on inspection.

**This area for improvement has been met.**

#### Previous area for improvement 2

To support children's overall wellbeing, the service should ensure personal plans reflect children's current needs and how the childminder will support these. Ensuring they are reviewed and signed by families every six months or sooner.

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).

**This area for improvement was made on 2 August 2024.**

#### **Action taken since then**

Personal plan for children had not been reviewed in line with current legislation and not all plans were available to review.

**This area for improvement has not been met and has been carried over within this report.**

#### **Previous area for improvement 3**

To minimise the risk of infection spread and to promote good hygiene the childminder should ensure that pets do not access kitchen surfaces/food preparation areas whilst the service is operational.

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

'I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well maintained premises, furnishings and equipment' (HSCS 5.24).

**This area for improvement was made on 2 August 2024.**

#### **Action taken since then**

The childminder cleaned down surfaces and areas children used for eating before mealtimes. Pets were removed from the room while children ate. This helped to reduce the spread of infection while children experienced mealtimes.

**This area for improvement has been met.**

#### **Previous area for improvement 4**

To ensure the wellbeing and safety of children using the service, the childminder should further review and update the services risk assessments and procedures to identify possible hazards and the measures in place to minimise risk.

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

'My environment is secure and safe' (HSCS 5.19).

**This area for improvement was made on 2 August 2024.**

#### **Action taken since then**

This area for improvement has been reworded to support the childminder with improvements that should be made.

**This area for improvement has been reworded and reflected within Quality Indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources.**

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## Previous area for improvement 5

To ensure a high-quality service for children and families, the childminder should review their own quality assurance processes. This will help to raise standards and to drive and sustain improvement. This should include, but is not limited to, a record of on-going participation and involvement of children and their families, risk assessments, children's personal files, an improvement plan and self-evaluation system.

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

'I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed'. (HSCS 4.23).

**This area for improvement was made on 2 August 2024.**

### Action taken since then

The childminder has not carried out any processes to support with improvement of the service.

**This area for improvement has been reworded and reflected within Quality Indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources.**

## Previous area for improvement 6

To support children's well-being, learning and development, the childminder should prioritise the areas that we have identified for improvement within this inspection report.

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

'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice' (HSCS 4.11).

**This area for improvement was made on 2 August 2024.**

### Action taken since then

The childminder has began to priorities areas for improvement set out within the last report. Some areas for improvement have been met.

**This area for improvement has been met.**

## 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	2 - Weak
Leadership and management of staff and resources	2 - Weak
Children thrive and develop in quality spaces	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children experience high quality spaces	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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