

Odeneal, Elaine Child Minding

Glasgow

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
29 January 2026

Service provided by:
Elaine Odeneal

Service provider number:
SP2003903635

Service no:
CS2003006186

About the service

The service is provided from the childminders home in the Newlands area of Glasgow. The service is close to local schools, shops, parks and green spaces.

Children have access to the main living room space and bathroom. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than three are not yet of an age to attend primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. At the time of inspection, there was one minded child being cared for.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 28 January 2026 between 09:00 and 11:10. 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 one child using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents
- assessed core assurances, including the physical environment.

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 should further develop approaches to self-evaluation to support continuous improvement.
- The childminder should develop their knowledge and understanding of current frameworks and best practice guidance to support positive outcomes for children.
- The childminder should update child protection and first aid training to further support children's safety and wellbeing.
- The childminder should develop approaches to personal planning to further support children's development and wellbeing.
- The childminder was warm, nurturing and loving in their interactions with children, this supported strong attachments between them and the children they cared for.
- Children were happy, confident and settled in the service.
- Opportunities for play and learning were enhanced through experiences in the local and wider community.

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

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

Quality indicator: Leadership and management of staff resources

The childminder had a clear vision for the service they provided and had created aims that demonstrated this. We found these to be reflected in the ethos and practice of the service. For example, providing a safe and welcoming environment and promoting children's physical, emotional and social wellbeing. This supported children to be happy, confident and relaxed in the service.

The childminder used an informal approach to self-evaluation and improvement. They were receptive to feedback to discuss ways to improve the service. We advised the use of the challenge questions within the Care Inspectorate's new quality improvement framework for childminder's would support them to identify what is working well and what needs to improve to promote good outcomes for children. This would allow children and families to benefit from care that evolved to meet their needs and further support high-quality experiences.

The childminder respected parents and children's views and opinions. Ongoing communication through daily conversations provided opportunities for parents to share their views. Consultation with children was adapted to suit their age and stage of development. Younger children were offered choices throughout the session to support them to make their wants and needs known. Older children were encouraged through conversations. This supported children to feel respected within the service.

The childminder was experienced and confident within their role and cared deeply about children using the service. It had been some time since the childminder had accessed training opportunities. This had impacted the childminder's awareness of current national frameworks and guidance that supports best practice. We discussed the importance of completing first aid and child protection training on a regular basis to support children's safety. We advised accessing training more frequently would support the childminder in their continuous professional development. This would ensure they had the most up to date knowledge and skills to support good outcomes for children. We have made an area for improvement to address this (see area for improvement 1).

Areas for improvement

1. To improve the childminder's knowledge and skills to further support good outcomes for children. The childminder should access relevant training and learning opportunities on a more regular and consistent basis.

This should include but is not limited to:

- Accessing training opportunities through SCMA website and other providers. Including first aid and annual child protection training.
- Accessing Care Inspectorate Hub to develop knowledge and understanding of current national frameworks and best practice guidance to support their childminding setting and its continuous improvement.

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

'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional codes.' (HSCS 3.14)

Children play and learn 4 - Good

We made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, when taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality indicator: Playing, learning and developing

Children were relaxed, happy and confident in exploring the environment. A wide selection of developmentally appropriate resources were available and easily accessible. We suggested some resources could be taken away to create a bigger floor space for children to navigate more easily. The childminder was aware of children's current interests and had provided resources to support this. For example, soft toys for cuddling, a slide for physical play and books with their favourite T.V characters. This supported children to be engaged and purposeful in their play.

The childminder was skilled in interactions to support children's play and learning. They used age appropriate comments and questions to sustain children's interest, extend their learning and support their language development. For example, whilst sharing a story children were encouraged to find and name different animals, and make their sounds. This brought much fun and shared laughter between children and the childminder.

Planning for children's learning was happening through visual observations of children's interests. We discussed with the childminder that planning approaches could be further developed to extend children's learning experiences. What children had been doing was recorded in their daily diary. We suggested adding more detail of children's learning would help the childminder document children's progress and plan meaningful next steps. This would further support children's individual learning and developmental needs. Learning was being shared with parents through daily chats, and photos and videos on WhatsApp. This supported parents to feel involved in their children's play and learning.

Children's play and learning was enhanced through strong links to the local and wider community. The childminder was aware of children's interest in climbing and regularly accessed local play parks, large country parks and soft play. This offered opportunities to support children's physical development, and encourage challenge and risky play.

Children are supported to achieve 4 - Good

We made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, when taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality indicator: Nurturing care and support

Children were happy, settled and relaxed in the childminder's care. They experienced warm and nurturing interactions which supported them to feel safe, secure and loved. The childminder was attuned to individual children's needs and responded with kindness, patience and respect. Hugs, gentle touch and words of reassurance supported positive attachments and trusting relationships with the childminder.

The childminder knew children's individual personalities, likes, dislikes and needs very well. We discussed the importance of recording this information in personal plans. This would provide a clear profile of children's development and support the childminder to plan next steps to support children's progress and wellbeing. To support the childminder in developing their approach to personal planning we signposted them to the Care Inspectorate Hub and Scottish Childminding Association website for further guidance. An area for improvement to develop personal plans was made at a previous inspection. This will be continued and is documented in the outstanding areas for improvement section of this report.

Children and families were at the heart of the service. The childminder took time to get to know children and their families well, promoting positive relationships. This supported parents and the childminder to work together to plan transitions from home to the setting that were managed sensitively and thoughtfully. This individualised approach ensured transitions met the specific needs of each child and family. This supported parents to feel valued and contributed to trusting relationships between them and the childminder.

Children experienced calm and relaxing routines throughout the day. Their personal care needs were met with respect and promoted dignity. Mealtimes were relaxed and unhurried and food provided met children's dietary needs and preferences. Children sat securely in highchairs and were well supervised. This helped promote safe eating and opportunities to chat to promote language development. The childminder was aware of children's sleep routines and followed safe sleep practices, such as, children lying flat to sleep and implementing safe sleep checks. Children typically slept on the sofa. We discussed the potential risk of falling and the childminder suggested the use of a travel cot. We agreed this would be a safer alternative.

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 support children's wellbeing and development. The childminder should continue to develop processes for personal plans for children. These should contain significant information, progress and observations. This should be done in consultation with children and parents.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state 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 15 January 2015.

Action taken since then

This is continued from last inspection visit.

Previous area for improvement 2

We requested that the childminder review the majority of her policies. She agreed she could improve and formalise her quality assurance methods, for example recording training she has carried out.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 14 - A well managed service.

This area for improvement was made on 15 January 2015.

Action taken since then

The childminder had a selection of up to date policies in place, such as, child protection, medication, participation and engaging with children. This helped support positive outcomes for children.

Therefore we were satisfied this part of the area for improvement had been met.

Routine quality assurance and training had not taken place for some time. Therefore we have addressed this with a new area for improvement within the leadership section of this report.

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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