

Nutt, Belinda Child Minding

Kilmarnock

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
28 January 2026

Service provided by:
Belinda Nutt

Service provider number:
SP2004938795

Service no:
CS2003055752

About the service

Belinda Nutt provides a childminding service from their home in Symington, South Ayrshire. The service is in a quiet, residential area. The children are cared for in a living room and kitchen/diner. They have access to a downstairs bathroom and an enclosed garden.

The childminder may care for a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age; of whom no more than six are under 12 years; of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and; of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers include the childminder's family.

At the time of our inspection, 11 children were registered with the service. There were two children in attendance during the inspection.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 20 January 2026 between 15:15 and 17:50. 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, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year. To inform our evaluation we:

- spent time with five children using the service
- received three completed questionnaires from families
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed 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 were happy and having fun.
- The childminder provided a home from home experience where children felt relaxed.
- Children experienced warm, nurturing care.
- Children benefited from rich play and learning experiences, both indoors and in the community, which supported their confidence, curiosity and development.
- The childminder had positive, trusting relationships with children and their families.
- Written risk assessments should be developed.

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	5 - Very 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 created a warm, home from home environment where children and their families felt central to the setting. Children had their own storage spaces and clearly felt at home. They told us, "I love going" and "I never want to leave". Parents echoed this, sharing comments such as, "[the childminder] is a massive part of not just my child's life, but our family as a whole... I cannot think of another person I would trust better to love and care for my [child]". Another parent told us the childminder "feels like part of the family". This reflected the childminder's clear vision of providing nurturing, relationship based care where children and families felt a strong sense of belonging.

The childminder was welcoming and engaged well during the inspection process. They were open to discussions and welcomed any suggestions and feedback to support improvement. This meant children and families experienced a service that was well led and managed.

The childminder reflected regularly on their service and looked for ways to improve children's experiences. They purchased new toys and equipment to offer children more challenge and enjoyment. They also asked parents for feedback through informal chats, using this to adapt and enhance the provision. All parents strongly agreed they felt involved in the development of the service. As a result, children benefited from a service that continued to evolve and respond to their needs, and families felt valued as partners in shaping their children's care.

The childminder carried out dynamic risk assessments and took steps to keep children safe. For example, when going on walks and outings, they discussed road safety with children and ensured a first aid kit was taken. To support children's continued wellbeing, the childminder should complete written risk assessments. This would allow them to identify any potential hazards in advance, to reduce risks. We made an area for improvement for this at our last inspection which has not been met, therefore it will remain.

Children play and learn 5 - Very Good

Quality Indicator: Playing, learning and developing

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

Children appeared very happy and were having fun. They were able to choose from a variety of toys and activities that matched their stage of development and interests. They were excited to show us what they could choose from, which demonstrated a sense of belonging. Children were engaged in their play, which included imaginative play with dolls and construction activities with Lego. This told us that children felt safe, confident, and included, and that the environment supported their wellbeing.

Children of different ages played together very well. We heard lots of laughter and conversation as they played. Children shared toys and were able to negotiate and take turns independently. This showed that children were developing positive social skills, and enjoyed trusting and respectful relationships with one another.

Children had regular opportunities to learn in the community. The childminder made good use of local spaces such as parks, sports grounds and the local woodland area, giving children time to explore and be active. They also visited local amenities, including the library and the shop, which helped children learn about their community and develop confidence in different environments. As a result, children experienced varied, stimulating opportunities that supported their learning, independence and sense of belonging.

The childminder interacted with the children very well, supporting their wellbeing and extending their learning. For example, they praised children when they succeeded a challenging activity. They supported children's understanding by checking what they knew and explaining clearly when they needed help. There was a clear sense of warmth and mutual respect between the childminder and the children. This showed that children felt respected, listened to, and secure in their relationships, helping them to achieve positive learning outcomes. A parent told us, "[the childminder] has been such a positive impact on my child and has helped to shaped them into the wee person they have become today".

The childminder had a strong understanding of how children learned through play. They used this well to ensure activities were led by children's interests and needs. They enhanced experiences by adding resources that captured children's attention and extended their play. For example, traditional weighing scales prompted children to create a role play café. This encouraged them to weigh, measure, read, write and talk together. This supported children to be curious, develop early literacy and numeracy skills, and learn through meaningful play.

Children are supported to achieve 5 - Very Good

Quality Indicator: Nurturing care and support

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

Children were treated with kindness and respect. The childminder spoke to them affectionately, listened carefully and got down to their level to engage in conversation. Children received reassurance and comfort when they needed it. As a result, they felt valued and emotionally secure, which supported warm relationships and positive wellbeing. One parent told us, "[the childminder] is such a nurturing, kind childminder. I have never met anyone like them and can't imagine anyone else looking after my children".

Snack time was a relaxed and unhurried experience for children. Sitting together around the kitchen table created a valuable opportunity for social interaction. Conversation flowed naturally between the children and the childminder, with discussions about their day, sharing of achievements, and enjoying jokes together. Children tidied up after themselves, showing that this routine was well established and supported their independence. This helped children feel included, and contributed to a quality mealtime experience for all.

The childminder had developed strong and meaningful partnerships with parents by communicating openly and consistently. We observed them welcoming families into their home and making time for conversations at pick up. They also used text messages to share updates and photographs. They offered support when families needed it, and one parent told us the childminder "will work on things we are working on at home to support us as a family." This approach helped families feel included and supported, and ensured children experienced continuity between home and the childminding setting.

Personal plans were in place and contained current information about each child's needs, routines and interests. This supported the childminder to respond to children as individuals. Families confirmed these plans were reviewed with them regularly. As a result, children experienced care that was tailored, responsive and based on a clear understanding of what mattered to them.

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

The childminder should compile robust written risk assessments for resources, activities and outings that may have potential hazards for minded children, indoors and outdoors.

Health and Social Care Standards. Standard 5:17: My environment is safe and secure.

This area for improvement was made on 23 July 2018.

Action taken since then

There were no written risk assessments in place. We asked the childminder to ensure written risk assessments were completed, to help identify any potential hazards in the setting, or on outings, to reduce risk.

Therefore, this area for improvement has not been met and will remain in place.

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	4 - Good
Leadership and management of staff and resources	4 - Good
Children play and learn	5 - Very Good
Playing, learning and developing	5 - Very Good
Children are supported to achieve	5 - Very Good
Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good

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