

Stewart, Andrea Child Minding

Aberdeen

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
17 February 2026

Service provided by:
Andrea Stewart

Service provider number:
SP2004915815

Service no:
CS2004059176

About the service

Andrea Stewart provides a childminding service located in a residential area of Kincorth in Aberdeen. The service is easily accessible by local bus routes as well as on foot and by car. Amenities nearby include local parks, green spaces, schools and a nature reserve.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time, under the age of 16, 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 areas not to be used are the bedrooms. Overnight service will not be provided. There was one child present during the inspection visit.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 17 February 2026 between the times of 11:15 and 13:50. This 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 and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluation we:

- spent time with children using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- assessed core assurances, including the physical environment
- observed practice and children's experiences
- 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

- The childminder knew children and families well, this enabled them to support children's overall health and wellbeing.
- A process of self-evaluation should be implemented to promote continuous improvement which impacts positively on children's experiences and outcomes.
- Children were safe and having fun in the childminder's care.
- Improved awareness and use of best practice guidance would support the childminder in providing care based on latest information.
- The childminder should implement a system to support her in recording and planning for children's progression.

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 thrive and develop in quality spaces	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children play and learn	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
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 a range of policies to support their practice. These included details of the procedures for child protection and managing the administration of medication. A statement of aims and objectives was shared with parents along with the policies. The childminder told us that children and families were involved in a review of the aims. This supported them to know what to expect from the service.

There were opportunities for parents to share their views about the service when collecting or dropping off their children. These opportunities were not being used to inform an evaluation of the service. The childminder should develop more ways to gather opinions of families and use these in the evaluation of their service. Children were supported to express their opinions and make suggestions about the activities offered or desired. Their opinions were considered when the childminder purchased new resources or planned activities. This supported children to feel listened to and valued.

The childminder had made some changes since the last inspection. For example, the personal plans in which children's information was recorded had been developed. They now had the format to record information to help the childminder identify and plan to meet children's needs. However, these were yet to be fully implemented. The childminder agreed that there was a need to progress change at a faster pace.

We discussed how recording the planned improvements would support the childminder in monitoring the progress. Having a written record would then enable a review and evaluation of the impact of changes on children's experiences. A previous area for improvement under this indicator had not been met and is being carried forward. Please refer to the section 'What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection' further in the report.

Quality Indicator: Staff skills, knowledge, values and deployment

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

Children benefitted as the childminder had an understanding of child development. We suggested that this could be used to promote the implementation of strategies to support children's development and progression.

The childminder's warm interactions and approachability supported children and their families to feel secure. The childminder recognised the importance of building relationships with children. Children benefitted as the childminder was aware of their experiences and responsive in offering support to them and their families.

The childminder spoke confidently of how they would identify, record and report any concerns over children's health, safety or wellbeing. However, they had not kept their child protection training up-to-date. They should access this as soon as possible. (See area for improvement 1.)

Membership of local childminding groups provided opportunities for the childminder to share ideas and participate in professional discussions. The childminder was aware of some of the best practice documents available to support their practice. For example, they had attended training on the document 'Setting the Table', which gives nutritional information. The awareness and use of best practice guidance should be extended. This will ensure that children receive care based on most recent guidance and legislation. A previous area for improvement under this indicator had not been met and is being carried forward. It will be reworded to show progress and align with the current quality framework. Please refer to the section 'What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection' further in the report. (See area for improvement 2.)

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure that they are keeping children safe from harm using the most up-to-date procedures and guidance the childminder should complete training in child protection as soon as possible.

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

'I am protected from harm, neglect, abuse, bullying and exploitation by people who have a clear understanding of their responsibilities' (HSCS 3.20); and

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

2. To support positive outcomes for children in their care, the childminder should further develop their skills and knowledge of best practice guidance. This includes, but not limited to, 'Realising the Ambition', 'A quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors, childminding', and 'Infection prevention and control in childcare settings (day care and childminding settings)'. They should use this to identify and improve areas of their service to promote the health and wellbeing of individual children.

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

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.

Children were relaxed and comfortable in a homely setting. They used the living room for play and eating and accessed the family bathroom upstairs. The layout of the living room allowed space for children to play. Children's choice was supported as they could participate in play or sit and complete quieter activities in different areas of the room.

Regular access to the outdoors supported children's wellbeing. This included walks with the childminder's dogs and visits to local parks and greenspaces. Children's experiences were further extended by using local facilities such as the library and playgroup.

Resources available reflected children's interests. For younger children these included shape sorters, balls, role play and small world toys. Older children had access to games and more complex construction such as Lego.

There were limited natural or open-ended resources which could be used for a variety of purposes. There were no resources to support sensory play, such as play dough or paint for example. Children were able to access these resources on regular visits to local groups. However, we suggested the childminder continue to develop the use of this type of resource in their home. This would further promote opportunities for children to follow interests and develop curiosities.

Children's safety was promoted by the childminder's consideration of hazards and the risks they presented. This included road safety when out and about and was supporting children's awareness of dangers. We suggested that the recording of these assessments of risk could be more detailed and include considerations for school pick up. The childminder agreed to review the assessments.

The childminder's infection prevention and control measures generally supported children's health. However, we asked that the childminder ensure that they are adhering to guidance. For example, that hand washing and nappy changing consistently adhered to current guidance.

The organisation and storage of children's personal records had improved and was now promoting the privacy and confidentiality of children and their families.

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 were relaxed and having fun in the childminder's care. They were confident in their play, accessing resources which reflected their interests. However, there were limited resources to challenge or encourage children's curiosities. Children's experiences were extended by using local amenities, this was where they had access to more messy play such as painting or sensory play. The use of children's wider community supported their social development and encouraged them to feel accepted and included.

Children were encouraged to make suggestions for activities as well as outings during the holidays. For example, there had been a recent swimming trip at a child's suggestion. This supported children to feel listened to and respected.

Children's wellbeing and confidence was promoted by the childminder's patient and encouraging interactions. They were praised for their achievements, for example, clapping and cheering when they caught a ball. There was lots of discussion between the children and childminder which supported their development of language. The childminder encouraged the child to tell us the names of other children who attend the setting. This helped the child feel confident and settled during the inspection. Children's learning was not extended by the childminder's interactions. The childminder should consider ways of

including this. For example, ensuring children have opportunities to problem solve and wonder or encouraging the use of number in the block or ball play.

The childminder recognised the importance of children's parents/carers in their learning journey. They verbally shared information about children's experiences when children were collected. They should now work on identifying learning and sharing this information. This will promote children's home learning and allow for celebration of achievements.

Identification of learning would support the childminder in planning for children's progression. They should use their knowledge of children's interests and past learning to plan activities and experiences which will build on this. (See area for improvement 1.)

Areas for improvement

1. To support children's progression the childminder should develop how they plan for children's developing and learning through play.

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

'I am supported to achieve my potential in education and employment if this is right for me' (HSCS 1.27).

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.

The childminder knew the children in their care well and was confident in discussing their interests and where they may need support. Interactions between the childminder and the children were kind and supportive, for example, encouraging a child to share their experiences. The childminder spoke positively about building relationships with the children and how this had impacted on the care they provided. Positive working relationships had been built with parents which promoted effective information sharing.

Patient and good-humoured interactions were used with the children when supporting them in personal care routines such as nappy changing. This promoted the children's comfort and confidence. Children's health and wellbeing was promoted by the childminder's understanding of their need for sleep and rest. A travel cot was available, but the sofa was also used for sleeping. The childminder explained that this had been agreed with the child's parents and was how she was normally settled. We directed the childminder to safe sleep guidance, which states that children should sleep on a flat firm surface and asked that they work towards following this.

Children's privacy and dignity was supported during personal care such as nappy changing. There was time allowed for children to be independent in their play and routines, but support was given when it was needed. This promoted children's confidence and abilities.

Children had access to fresh water, supporting their health through hydration. Lunch was usually taken at the community centre where children could choose "home cooked" style food such as soup and

sandwiches. The childminder showed a good knowledge of children's food preferences and how to manage allergies should this be needed.

Personal plans were in place for all the children. These had been further developed since the last inspection. They now included places to identify needs and record strategies of support. There was space here to record changes, reviews and parental feedback. However, the information was not yet complete and did not reflect the childminder's knowledge of individual children, changes in their lives or how they were being supported. During the inspection the childminder included some of this information in plans. They should now fully implement the new format to ensure that they consistently identify and meet all children's needs.

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

In order to promote children's health and wellbeing the childminder should ensure that personal plans are in place for all children. These should then be reviewed with parents at least every six months to ensure that the information is accurate and relevant. The plans should be developed to support the childminder in promoting children's learning and development. The document 'Guide for Providers on Personal Planning: Early Learning and Childcare' may be helpful. It is available on the Care Inspectorate Hub.

This is to ensure that 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 28 February 2024.

Action taken since then

Personal plans had been reviewed and developed. Once fully implemented they will assist the childminder in recording children's needs and strategies of support. Reviews in the form of regular discussions with parents had taken place but had not been recorded. There was provision for this within the developed personal plans. The childminder should ensure that they implement the changes as a priority.

This area for improvement has been met.

Previous area for improvement 2

To ensure children and families experience a service that is continuously developing and improving, the childminder should implement a system of quality assurance and self-evaluation.

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).

This area for improvement was made on 28 February 2024.

Action taken since then

The childminder had not yet progressed and no systems for evaluation or planned improvement were in place. This area for improvement will be carried forward.

This area for improvement has not been met.

Previous area for improvement 3

To support positive outcomes for children in their care, the childminder should develop their skills and knowledge of best practice guidance. This includes, but not limited to, 'Realising the Ambition', 'Infection prevention and control in childcare settings (day care and childminding settings)' and 'Guide for Providers on Personal Planning - Early Learning and Childcare'. They should use this to identify and improve areas of their service to promote the health and wellbeing of individual children.

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

This area for improvement was made on 29 June 2022.

Action taken since then

The childminder had completed first aid training and further training for 'Setting the Table' document. They were yet to extend their awareness of further best practice guidance, including the new quality improvement framework. They were also to complete a course in child protection to ensure that their practice was up-to-date.

This area for improvement has been reworded to reflect some progress.

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
Staff skills, knowledge, values and deployment	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
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	4 - Good
Nurturing care and support	4 - Good

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