

Hampton, Hilary Child Minding

Kingussie

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
18 March 2026

Service provided by:
Hilary Hampton

Service provider number:
SP2007967911

Service no:
CS2007167399

About the service

Hilary Hampton provides a childminding service from their home in Kingussie. The service is registered to care for a maximum of six children under the age of 16 years, of whom a maximum of six will be under 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Children have access to the living room, kitchen, and bathroom. The service is within easy reach of local facilities including shops, parks and school.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Tuesday 17 March 2026 between 11:30 and 14:00. We gave feedback by telephone on Wednesday 18 March 2026. 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 three children using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- assessed core assurances, including the physical environment
- 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 benefitted from a childminder who was warm, responsive, and nurturing.

Caring interactions supported children to feel safe, secure and loved.

Children were relaxed, happy, and confident in the setting. They engaged well in their chosen play experiences, which contributed positively to their overall wellbeing.

Personal plans should be further developed to ensure they provide an accurate and up to date reflection of each child's age, stage of development, and changing needs.

Quality assurance and self-evaluation processes were at an early stage. The childminder had begun to reflect on practice and identify areas for development to support continuous improvement.

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	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 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 clear vision, values and aims which guided how they ran their service, and these were evident in their daily practice. Families were introduced to these when they joined, helping them understand the childminder's nurturing and child centred approach. This supported the development of strong, trusting relationships from the outset. Regular communication helped families feel involved and well informed, and this approach created consistency of care for children and supported their sense of security.

The childminder had a range of policies in place that supported safe and consistent practice. These guided daily routines and helped families understand how the service operated. Safety was managed well, with risk assessments and daily checks ensuring children could play and explore confidently. The childminder responded quickly to any potential hazards, helping maintain a secure environment. To strengthen this further, policies and written risk assessments should be reviewed more regularly, clearly dated, and organised in a way that makes them easy to access and update. Improving the organisation of paperwork would help the childminder find key documents quickly and keep records current.

The childminder had begun to reflect on what was working well and where improvements could be made. They actively listened to families' views and used their suggestions to support positive change. As self evaluation continues to develop, introducing more structured ways to gather feedback from families and involving children in simple conversations about safety and their experiences will help ensure the service continues to improve in ways that benefit them directly.

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 enjoyed a variety of play opportunities both indoors and outdoors. Activities were well matched to their interests and stage of development, helping them stay engaged in play and learn new skills. The childminder gave children time and space to follow their own ideas, which promoted confidence and independence. Their support was well judged, stepping in when needed while allowing children the freedom to lead their own play and learning. Children experienced play that was engaging, and enjoyable, supporting them to learn confidently at their own pace.

Children benefited from warm, responsive interactions. The childminder actively listened to children and gave them opportunities to share their thoughts, through these interactions the childminder helped children think more deeply or solve simple problems, without interrupting the flow of their play. This approach supported their early language development, social skills and understanding of the world. The childminder understood children's cues, offering reassurance or guidance when needed, which helped children feel understood and confident in their abilities.

Children had opportunities to explore creative materials. We suggested increasing the use of open ended resources, such as loose parts, as this would further enhance their imagination, creativity and problem solving skills. The childminder planned experiences based on regular informal observations of what children enjoyed and were learning. Making the recording of these observations more consistent, and sharing them more often with families, would give a clearer picture of each child's progress and help identify meaningful next steps.

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 experienced warm, caring and consistent support from the childminder. Their calm and gentle manner helped children feel safe and settled, and they responded sensitively to children's individual needs. The childminder knew the children and their families very well and as a result they were able to comfort, reassure and support children in ways that helped them feel secure and respected.

Daily routines, such as mealtimes, personal care and transitions, were seen as opportunities to build strong relationships and encourage independence. These routines were predictable and nurturing, which helped children understand what to expect and feel confident in the environment. Personal care routines were carried out safely and respectfully. This promoted children's dignity and privacy. The childminder maintained good hygiene practices, using personal protective equipment when needed and helping children learn to wash their hands effectively. When children were preparing to move to nursery, the childminder worked with families to plan this transition carefully and paced it in a way that suited individual children. This thoughtful approach helped children feel more at ease with the changes and supported a positive start in the new setting.

Personal plans reflected the childminder's understanding of each child's routines and interests. To strengthen these further, plans should be updated more often and include clearer details about children's current needs and progress. Keeping plans up to date would ensure children continue to receive care that is well matched to their development.

The childminder had developed positive relationships with families, this supported them to feel respected and included. Families were warmly welcomed into the service at drop off and pick up times, giving them regular opportunities to chat with the childminder and share important information. This helped families feel valued and part of the service. These daily conversations also supported consistent care between home and the setting, which contributed to children feeling safe, settled and secure.

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	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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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
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