

# Pauline Kohler Child Minding

Bathgate

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
26 March 2026

**Service provided by:**  
Pauline Kohler

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003906324

**Service no:**  
CS2003012602

## About the service

Pauline Kohler provides a childminding service from their property in Bathgate. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, 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 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family.

The service is situated close to local amenities, schools, and parks. Children have access to the family kitchen and bathroom facilities located on the ground floor of the premises, as well as a dedicated summer house. To the rear of the property, there is a spacious, enclosed garden that provides a safe and suitable area for outdoor play, positioned directly opposite the summer house.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 24 March 2026 between 14:45 and 18:45. 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:

- spent time with five children in the service
- spoke with the childminder
- received four completed questionnaires from parents
- 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

- Children benefitted from the childminder's ethos of collaboration, kindness and respect and experienced high-quality play opportunities that supported their wellbeing and enhanced positive outcomes.
- A consistent self-evaluation cycle and strong quality assurance systems supported reflective practice and continuous quality improvement.
- Children and parents were actively involved in the development of the service. This ensured improvements were shaped by the needs and interests of children and their families.
- Children confidently led their own play, had fun, and accessed a wide range of resources, helping them develop skills and confidence.
- Children's voices were central to planning and reflection. Children felt valued and listened to, enabling them to influence their learning, revisit experiences and build secure, trusting relationships that supported their wellbeing.
- The childminder had supported children to learn about and understand their rights in a gentle and meaningful way. Children's reflections were recorded in the floorbook, helping them recognise that their thoughts, ideas and contributions were valued.
- Families experienced a strong sense of connection with the childminder. Nurturing, reciprocal relationships had been developed, built on transparency, trust and meaningful collaboration.

## 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	5 - Very 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 5 - Very Good

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.

### Quality indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources

The childminder had recently reviewed their vision, values and aims to strengthen their rights-based approach and ensure these principles clearly guided their practice. Their stated aim was to provide "a caring environment where children enjoy their childhood and develop through play, exploration and positive relationships." This ethos was strongly reflected in day-to-day practice. Kindness, respect and collaboration were evident in interactions with children and families, in the quality of play and learning experiences offered, and in the priorities identified within the improvement plan.

The childminder had a clear set of improvement plan priorities in place, providing structure and direction for ongoing development. A well-established self-evaluation and improvement cycle supported reflective practice and continuous quality enhancement. To maximise the impact of this process, we discussed the importance of reviewing the improvement plan at a frequency that is both manageable and meaningful, ensuring that priorities remain current and continue to drive positive outcomes for children.

A reflective and evaluative approach underpinned the childminder's work. The childminder demonstrated that they had kept up to date with relevant training courses, best practice guidance and the new 2025 'A quality Improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding'. Regular self-evaluation supported continuous quality assurance and informed meaningful changes to practice. This ensured that developments were purposeful, aligned with the service's values, and contributed to positive outcomes for children.

The childminder had developed an effective quality assurance system to review policies, procedures and key aspects of practice. Core documents were well organised and contained all relevant information required to support safe and consistent practice. Regular review of these documents demonstrated strong leadership and a clear commitment to maintaining high standards, ensuring that resources and processes remained current, robust and aligned with positive outcomes for children.

The childminder was actively seeking ways to implement change in a meaningful and purposeful way, ensuring that developments had the greatest possible impact on children's experiences. This included reviewing approaches to parental consultation and adapting methods when existing tools, such as standard questionnaires, were not effective. Children were also encouraged to express their views and were empowered to help shape the direction of the service. Parents told us: "[childminder's name] regularly asks for ideas and input from us". This reflective and responsive approach demonstrated strong leadership, ensuring that improvements were informed by the voices, needs and interests of the children and families who use the service.

**Children play and learn** 5 - Very Good

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.

**Quality indicator: Playing, learning and developing**

Children experienced fun, rich and meaningful play opportunities. They were actively engaged in their play and confidently chose the resources they wished to use. For example, children were observed working collaboratively to create an outdoor obstacle course, playing football and tag games, engaging in imaginative play as hairdressers, and taking part in art and craft activities in the summer house. A child shared with us: "I really like playing outside and the craft activities". The childminder skilfully wove numeracy concepts and literacy elements into these experiences, enabling children to learn naturally through play. As a result, children benefitted from purposeful opportunities that supported their cognitive development and helped them grow in confidence.

The childminder had been developing the floorbook to ensure children took ownership of it and that their voices were clearly represented. Children were encouraged to contribute their ideas, reflections and creations, which promoted a strong sense of pride and achievement. The floorbook also enabled children to revisit meaningful learning experiences, deepening their understanding and strengthening their engagement over time. This approach supported a child-centred and reflective learning environment where children actively influenced and shaped their own learning journey.

Interactions were consistently kind, responsive and respectful. This created an environment where every child experienced a strong sense of belonging and felt safe, valued and listened to. As a result, children were more confident in expressing themselves, engaging deeply in play and forming secure, trusting relationships that supported their learning and wellbeing.

There was an effective balance of child-led and adult-initiated experiences, each thoughtfully planned around the children's interests. The childminder skilfully extended children's learning through responsive interactions that sustained their engagement and enriched their play. This approach created deeper, more meaningful opportunities for exploration, supporting children to remain curious, motivated and actively involved in their learning. A parent commented: "the most positive aspects of my child's experience are the caring and nurturing environment, the strong focus on safety and well-being, and the variety of age-appropriate activities that support their learning and development".

## Children are supported to achieve 5 - Very Good

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.

### Quality indicator: Nurturing care and support

The childminder provided responsive, nurturing care that was tailored to each child's individual needs. Children felt confident to be themselves within the setting, expressing their needs openly and seeking comfort whenever required. Parents told us: "my child feels secure, happy, and confident, and has formed positive relationships with both the childminder and other children". Another parent echoed: "[name of the childminder] is always so friendly and warm with us and my [child] goes in happy and confident, which says a lot". The childminder responded with consistent kindness, warmth and sensitivity, offering a secure base from which children could explore, play and build trusting relationships. This nurturing approach supported strong attachment and contributed positively to children's overall wellbeing.

The childminder had supported children to learn about and understand their rights in a gentle and meaningful way by introducing "the right of the week" initiative. Children's reflections were recorded in the floorbook, helping them recognise that their thoughts, ideas and contributions were valued.

Each child had a personal plan that was reviewed and updated regularly. A parent commented: "[name of the childminder] keeps me informed and regularly checks in to update the kids' personal plans". We discussed the importance of continuing to follow good practice by recording and adding relevant information at any time or point of change, ensuring that each plan remained a meaningful, living document. Keeping plans current enabled the childminder to identify changes early and respond consistently to children's evolving needs, interests, challenges and preferences. This supported a nurturing approach, helping to provide children with reassurance, continuity and the right support at the moments they needed it most.

The childminder had thoughtfully reflected on the most effective ways to consult with parents, recognising that standard questionnaires were not having a meaningful impact on children's experiences. This demonstrated a proactive and sensitive approach, showing the childminder's ability to adapt communication methods to ensure they genuinely supported children's wellbeing and development. In response, the childminder introduced a simple monthly question, creating a more accessible and responsive way for families to share their views. This strengthened partnership working and ensured that feedback directly informed practice, leading to more positive and personalised experiences for children.

Families experienced a strong sense of connection with the childminder. Nurturing, reciprocal relationships had been developed, built on transparency, trust and meaningful collaboration. A parent told us: "I have known [childminder's name] for almost 18 years. All of my children have gone to her. I feel like we are part of the family. She will always go above and beyond". Families felt fully involved in their child's time at the childminder through daily conversation, an online platform and messages and were confident that their views and insights helped shape the ongoing development of the service. This partnership approach strengthened continuity of care and ensured children felt secure, valued and well supported.

## 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

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

## To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

## Contact us

Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

## Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iarrrtas.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.