

Austrupa, Anete Child Minding

Westhill

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
11 March 2026

Service provided by:
Anete Austrupa

Service provider number:
SP2018990087

Service no:
CS2018369265

About the service

Anete Austrupa provides a childminding service from their home in a quiet residential area of Westhill. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time up to the age of 16 years:

- 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 are inclusive of the children of the childminder's family/household. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons not named on the registration certificate. Overnight care will not be provided.

From 01/05/2023 to 15/03/2026 the childminder may care for a maximum of seven children at any one time up to the age of 16 years:

- 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 are inclusive of the children of the childminder's family/household.

The service is close to a local primary school, parks and other local amenities. Children have access to the living room/dining area, kitchen, bathroom and an enclosed back garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 10 March 2026 between 12:30 and 17:00. Feedback was provided to the childminder on 11 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:

- interacted with six children using the service
- spoke with one parent and received written feedback from four parents
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily experiences
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children benefitted from a warm, nurturing environment which helped them to feel safe and secure.
- Children had fun while they played and learned.
- Routines were calm, consistent, and responsive to children's individual needs.
- Further professional development would enhance the childminder's knowledge and skills and support positive outcomes for the children.
- Quality assurance and self evaluation processes should be further developed to support the continuous development of the service.

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.

A written vision values and aims for the service was in place and reflected what we saw. This included providing "a warm, friendly, nurturing environment in which children can play, learn, develop and grow." Although this had recently been reviewed, further development could be achieved by involving children and families meaningfully for future reviews. Their contribution would support a shared vision that better reflects the needs, aspirations, and experiences of those using the service.

The childminder was supported in their practice by a set of policies, procedures which were detailed and reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they reflected up to date best practice.

The childminder had continued to work on self evaluating their service. They considered what they were doing well and what they could improve and made some identified changes. This work should continue and it would be beneficial for the childminder to use 'A Quality Improvement Framework for the Early Learning and Childcare Sectors: Childminding' to support this.

The childminder had continued working on improvements to the service. The childminder had further developed children's personal plans and made environmental changes to help children make more independent choices in their play and learning. Developing an improvement plan with clear priorities would help the childminder continue to strengthen and sustain ongoing improvement.

Children and families were actively encouraged to share their views, which helped influence ongoing developments within the service. Children played a meaningful role in planning activities, particularly during holidays when day trips were arranged. They were also involved in choosing snacks and new resources, helping them to take ownership of their experiences. The childminder had explored different ways of gathering feedback from parents and carers and found that informal daily conversations were the most effective. Feedback we received indicated a high level of satisfaction with the service.

First aid training has been completed recently to ensure that the childminders certification was still in date. The childminder found it challenging to balance ongoing professional development with being available to support children and their families. We discussed using online reading, including through the Care Inspectorate Hub, to help the childminder stay up to date with current best practice.

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 were fully engaged in play and learning activities throughout the inspection and were having fun. Experiences included imaginary play activities, rolling and cutting shapes with playdoh, building towers and

boats with Duplo blocks and engaging in craft activities. Younger children present during the inspection visit were very interested in books and also singing nursery rhymes. It was evident that children regularly took part in these activities. The children could recall many of the words in the books they shared with the inspector and confidently joined in with singing nursery rhymes. These experiences helped to support their literacy and speech development.

Parents and children talked about different places visited including different castles, soft plays, farm animals, play parks, fruit farms and splash parks. Children also went for walks in the local community and attended weekly playgroup, childminding group and storytelling group. These provided positive opportunities to be involved in the community and to develop social skills.

The children expressed a high level of satisfaction with the activities available to them. One child told us the childminder was "fun" and that they liked making bracelets with the childminder. Another child told us that "I like how we have so much different things to play with and there is a lot of stuff to do."

Parents also fed back that they were happy about the wide range of experiences their children were offered. One told us that "our daughter loves arts and crafts and Anete provides lots of these activities for her. She loves all the crafts at Anete's." Another parent told us "they go on fabulous excursions during holidays. Anete really goes above and beyond to make the kids holidays really special."

Children were very much involved in making their own choices about what they wanted to do. For younger children this was evident through them being able to self select from a good range of resources. It was clear through watching them interact with the childminder that they were confident about making choices and requests. Many of the resources had a fixed purpose and we spoke about supporting children creativity, curiosity and problem solving by increasing the range of open ended resources available to them. Commonly known as 'loose parts', these could include, for example cardboard tubes, pine cones, cotton reels and cardboard boxes.

The childminder knew the children well and used this knowledge to plan play experiences based on their routines, interests, and developmental stages. Photographs were shared online to give parents an insight into their child's experiences. This was very much appreciated. The childminder had begun to introduce ways to record children's learning and development and track their progress. They should continue to develop this further.

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 and their families were warmly welcomed into the childminders home. It was clear the childminder had developed very positive relationships with families. The childminder spoke fondly about the children and interactions were nurturing and responsive to individual needs. Children were given comfort and reassurance, helping them feel safe. This nurturing approach created a calm, positive environment where children were happy.

Children and their parents spoke very positively about the childminders caring approach. One parent told us that the childminder was "kind and generous" and another that the childminder "always goes the extra step,

always willing to help and adores the kids she cares for!" Children described the childminder as "kind," "loving," "respectful" and "helpful."

Daily routines were well organised and flexible, helping to meet each child's individual needs. The childminder used their knowledge of each child to provide consistent care that reflected home routines. For example we saw positive interactions used to support a child to fall asleep. Personal care was carried out in a sensitive and thoughtful way. The childminder however needed to further develop infection prevention and control practice whilst nappy changing. Gloves need to be removed at the correct time (before putting clean nappy on). Nappy changing should also be an opportunity for the child being supported to wash their hands.

All children were very familiar with the routine followed for collecting children from school. Measures were in place to ensure that this was undertaken in a way that kept children safe.

Children experienced positive snack and mealtime routines which were sociable, healthy and relaxed. Positive infection prevention and control practice was implemented, with effective handwashing and appropriate cleaning taking place. The childminder provided appetising and well presented snacks and lunch which were enjoyed by the children. Although apples were sliced thinly for pre school children the skin was still left on. The childminder must ensure that she is familiar with the most up to date best practice guidance for preparation of food for younger children to minimise risk.

Children's wellbeing was supported through the childminder's knowledge of their individual needs. Personal plans contained clear information to promote children's safety and wellbeing including any health needs, likes and dislikes and daily routines. These were created in partnership with parents when children started at the service and were regularly reviewed to ensure the information remained current and up to date. This meant children were well cared for and settled.

Positive, strong relationships with families helped to ensure the children were settled and enjoyed positive outcomes. Parents appreciated the quality of engagement they had with the childminder. They told us that "Anete is very easy to get along with and we find the level of communication perfect" and that the childminder was "very supportive."

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 implement effective self-evaluation procedures and improvement planning to monitor and continuously improve experiences for children.

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

'I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed' (HSCS 4.23); and

'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 13 November 2024.

Action taken since then

The childminder had further developed their self evaluation document since the last inspection. Although an improvement plan was not in place it was clear that improvements had been made. For example, personal plans were fully completed and some work had been done in relation to children's personal development plans to highlight goals and progress.

This area for improvement was found to have been met. Discussion took place with the childminder regarding further development.

Previous area for improvement 2

To continue to improve the service and outcomes for children, the childminder should assess their training needs and develop a training plan to ensure that these are progressed. The childminder should keep a record of training completed and their learning.

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

'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 13 November 2024.

Action taken since then

The childminder had completed first aid training and other training related to individual children's specific needs, since the last inspection. The childminder was able to talk through their learning.

The childminder found it challenging to balance ongoing professional development with being available to support children and their families. This area for improvement was found to have been met, however we discussed using online reading, including through the Care Inspectorate Hub, to help the childminder continue to stay up to date with current best practice.

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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