

Louise's childminding service

Child Minding

Aberdeen

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
13 March 2026

Service provided by:
Louise Evans

Service provider number:
SP2023000492

Service no:
CS2024000140

About the service

Louise's Childminding Service is a childminding service delivered from the childminder's home in Bridge of Don, Aberdeen. It is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age.

- of whom no more than 6 are under 12 years;
- of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and;
- of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months.

Numbers include the children of the childminder's family/household.

Minded children can only be cared for by persons named on the certificate.

No overnight care will be provided.

Children are cared for primarily in the living room and kitchen diner within the childminder's home. To provide outdoor experiences the childminder accesses local parks and green spaces.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 12 March 2026 between 09:05 and 12:00 and 13 March 2026 between 13:00 and 14:20. 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 and spoke to one of their parents/carers
- received one completed questionnaire from parents/carers
- 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, improvements were identified relating to core assurances. We have reported where improvement is necessary within the section 'Children experience high quality spaces'.

Key messages

- Children's wellbeing was supported through strong relationships between them and the childminder.
- The childminder had begun reflecting on their practice, but limited use of self-evaluation and quality improvement frameworks reduced opportunities to enhance outcomes for children.
- Children experienced warm, nurturing interactions and felt settled in the childminder's home, although limited space and resources reduced opportunities for independent and exploratory play.
- The childminder's responsive and nurturing interactions supported children to express themselves and make choices.
- Children experienced warm, nurturing care that supported their safety, confidence and independence, with calm transitions and respectful personal care routines enhancing their wellbeing.

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	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

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 developed a statement of aims and objectives when they first registered with the Care Inspectorate. This had been shared with parents when they joined the service. As the service has now been operating for over a year, the statement should be reviewed to ensure it continues to reflect current practice. Involving parents and children in this process would ensure they know what to expect from the service. This would help them feel included and confident in contributing their views.

The childminder accessed support and advice through their membership of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and participation in a local childminding network. These networks provided opportunities to share ideas and access good practice information. However, although the childminder was aware of the 'Quality improvement framework for early learning and childcare sector', they were not yet using it effectively to evaluate their service. As a result, opportunities to drive sustained improvement and enhance outcomes for children were not fully maximised. We advised the childminder to strengthen their understanding and use of this framework and other best practice documents. This will support more robust and reflective self-evaluation.

Families felt involved in the development of the service. Parents told us they had opportunities to give feedback and provided examples of when their suggestions had been acted upon. The childminder also described how children influenced the activities and resources offered.

The childminder was reflecting on their practice and making short term changes that had a positive impact on children's choice and experiences. We discussed the importance of using feedback and best practice guidance to support more systematic evaluation of the service. This should help identify longer term developments that will further improve outcomes for children. (See area for improvement 1.)

Areas for improvement

1. The childminder should establish a system of self-evaluation. This should then be used to identify areas where further development would have a positive impact on children's experiences and outcomes.

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).

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 and families were welcomed warmly into the childminder's home. Unhurried handovers supported positive relationships and helped children feel settled. The limited space available meant some areas were overcrowded, which reduced children's ability to move freely and independently access resources. Reviewing the layout and reducing clutter would support children's safety and enhance their opportunities for play and exploration.

The childminder had a good awareness of the child's movements and needs, enabling responsive interactions that promoted safety. Risk assessments were in place and supported children to engage safely in experiences, including opportunities for appropriate risky play during visits to local parks.

Infection prevention and control practices were generally effective. Children washed their hands appropriately, individual towels were used, and the highchair was kept clean. However, some areas of the home required repair, which made thorough cleaning more difficult and increased the risk of ineffective infection control. (See area for improvement 1.)

The children present were confident moving around the home, and the childminder responded sensitively to their interests and needs. However, limited access to independently available resources reduced the ability to lead their own play and make choices that extended their learning.

The garden was not currently used for childminded children. Although local parks and a woodland area were accessed daily, developing the garden would increase children's choice, support spontaneous outdoor play, and strengthen opportunities for sustainability and nature-based learning.

The home environment was secure. Stair gates were used appropriately, the front door was locked, and no hazards were noted in the kitchen or bathroom. Overcrowding in some areas, however, increased the potential risk of trips or falls. Car seats were used when travelling in the childminder's vehicle, supporting children's safety.

Confidential information was stored in a locked box away from public areas, demonstrating an understanding of privacy and GDPR requirements. However, the childminder could not access the box on the first day of the inspection. Emergency contact details were available on the childminder's phone but ensuring quick access to all necessary information while maintaining confidentiality is essential for children's safety.

Areas for improvement

1. The childminder should ensure the environment is well maintained and that repairs are completed promptly to support effective infection prevention and control.

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

'I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy, well-maintained premises, furnishings and equipment' (HSCS 5.24).

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 present during the inspection visit were happy, confident and having fun with the childminder. The childminder showed an understanding of children's learning and development. This was evidenced through their interactions and appropriate expectations of children's behaviour and achievements.

Children had daily access to the outdoors through visits to the local park and green spaces. This promoted their health and wellbeing and provided opportunities to develop gross motor skills. Children were able to access books which the childminder read with them, promoting their literacy and language skills. There were photos of children participating in messy play and crafts. For example, card making and play with grains and pasta. Experiences were further extended by visiting local toddler groups and facilities such as the library. There were limited resources independently available to children within the childminder's home. The childminder should consider how to provide opportunities for children to follow their interests and curiosities through independent access to appropriate resources. (See area for improvement 1).

The childminder's interactions provided opportunities for children to develop their thinking and to express themselves. There were opportunities for children to consider and express choices and emotions, promoting feelings of inclusion and respect. There was some use of numerical language within interactions, counting fish, identifying colours and so on. The childminder should further develop opportunities for children to practice numeracy skills. For example, having access to measuring tools and construction play.

Children benefitted as the childminder responded to their interests in the moment. They were flexible in changing plans to accommodate children's wishes and meet family needs. For example, providing sensory play and mark making opportunities in response to children's suggestions.

Observations of children's learning and achievements were recorded and shared with parents. This enabled parents to be involved in the children's learning and celebrate their successes. Activities to promote children's progression were also noted and shared. The childminder was confident when discussing support given to children in meeting these next steps. We suggested that recording these strategies would promote accurate information sharing and the ability to review and assess their success.

Areas for improvement

1. The childminder should develop their provision to ensure that children benefit from a creative, stimulating and challenging environment.

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

'As a child, my social and physical skills, confidence, self esteem and creativity are developed through a balance of organised and freely chosen, extended play including using open ended and natural materials' (HSCS 1.31).

Children are supported to achieve 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

Quality Indicator: Nurturing care and support

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

Children experienced warm, sensitive and nurturing interactions, which supported them to feel valued and accepted. Parents strongly agreed that they were happy with the care provided. The childminder responded to the children's cues, using eye contact, reassurance and praise. This supported children to feel safe, confident and valued. The children were encouraged during tasks such as dressing and mealtimes, which promoted independence and a sense of achievement.

Transitions into the setting were calm and unhurried. This helped children to settle comfortably and supported the sharing of important information between the childminder and parent. Children's privacy and dignity were respected during personal care routines.

Parents provided all food, which the childminder reheated safely in line with appropriate guidance. One child was offered diluting juice; the childminder should promote water or milk as healthier options. The childminder sat with the child during meals which encouraged positive relationships, communication and social interaction.

The childminder gathered information about children's home routines and sought to reflect these in practice. Sleep routines, while reflecting parental wishes were not yet fully aligned with safe sleeping guidance. The childminder should review this to ensure children's safety. Although medication was not currently being administered, appropriate systems were in place to promote children's health. The childminder should ensure any future medication is stored safely and individually, following national guidance. (See area for improvement 2.)

Personal plans were in place and contained key information to support children's health and safety. However, they did not consistently reflect children's individual needs or the strategies used to support them. This limited the childminder's ability to assess progress and evaluate the effectiveness of care. The childminder had a good understanding of each child's needs, and ensuring this knowledge is clearly documented will support consistent, high-quality care and effective information sharing. (See area for improvement 1.)

Areas for improvement

1. The childminder should develop personal plans, so they clearly describe children's individual support needs and how these are being met.

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).

2. The childminder should make use of current national best practice guidance to ensure that infection prevention and control (IPC) practice and medication storage procedures align with up-to-date expectations.

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

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

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
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	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Nurturing care and support	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

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