

Lauriestone Childminding Services Child Minding

Coatbridge

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
8 April 2026

Service provided by:
Emma Hughes

Service provider number:
SP2024000058

Service no:
CS2024000236

About the service

Lauriestone Childminding Services, provide a childminding service from their property in the Carnbroe area of Coatbridge, North Lanarkshire. They are registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide care to a maximum of six children at any one time. These numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own family. At the time of our inspection, seven children were registered with the service, and two minded children were present.

The service is close to parks, shops, local schools and other amenities. Care is provided in the living room of the property, and minded children have access to a downstairs bathroom, kitchen and a fully enclosed garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 7 April 2026 between the hours of 14:00 and 17:00. We returned on 8 April 2026 to provide feedback to the provider. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

This was the service's first inspection since registration. To prepare, we reviewed information about the service. This included registration records, information submitted by the provider and intelligence gathered since registration.

To inform our evaluation we:

- spent time with two children using the service
- reviewed electronic feedback provided by three families
- assessed core assurances, including the physical environment
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- 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 children thrive and develop in quality spaces.

Key messages

- Children experienced warm, nurturing care from a childminder who knew them well and supported their individual needs and routines.
- The childminder was committed and child focused, with parents reporting positive relationships and confidence in the care provided.
- The childminder had a clear understanding of their responsibility to keep children safe through robust safeguarding arrangements.
- The environment was welcoming and familiar, which helped children feel settled and comfortable.
- Children enjoyed positive play experiences and warm, responsive interactions that supported their self esteem.
- Toys and materials, including sensory and open ended materials, could be further developed to support children's exploration and play.
- The childminder should ensure consistency in daily routines, including safe sleep practice to promote children's health and 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 | 4 - Good |
| Children thrive and develop in quality spaces | 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate |
| 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.

Children benefited from a childminder who knew them well and spoke confidently about their routines and needs. This helped to ensure they experienced consistent and supportive care based on their individual needs. Parents' feedback reflected confidence in the childminder, describing positive relationships and feeling welcomed into the childminder's home

Children's safety was supported and appropriate policies and procedures were in place, including those relating to child protection, medication and complaints. Risk was managed through daily ongoing assessment, and the childminder accessed professional learning through the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA). This helped to ensure that safeguarding responsibilities were understood and applied consistently, supporting children's safety and wellbeing.

The childminder was developing their approaches to self evaluation. This included identifying where improvements to the outdoor environment could further support children's play, such as the addition of open ended resources. We discussed developing an improvement plan, where they could include evidence that clearly documents their progress and development. Recording these processes would help demonstrate how improvement is identified, planned and reviewed over time. This would support the service to evidence sustained improvement for children.

Personal plans contained meaningful information from parents, which supported the childminder to develop a clear understanding of how children's individual needs were met. To strengthen this further, the childminder should ensure parents are consistently involved in developing and reviewing care plans and are clearly informed about their child's day-to-day experiences. Strengthening communication and planned review with families would support a shared understanding of children's experiences. This would help ensure children benefit from care that is consistently informed by close partnership with parents and supports continuity, confidence and positive outcomes over time.

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 experienced a warm and welcoming environment that helped children feel safe and secure. The childminding home was clean, bright and well ventilated and children were able to move freely around the space. Children accessed resources independently, which supported their voices and child led play. Parents described the environment as calm and reassuring for their children. This supported children to feel settled and at ease in the setting.

Children had access to an environment that supported safety and established routines, with scope to further develop opportunities for exploration and creativity. Most resources had a defined purpose and children were engaged in their play. We discussed how introducing more open-ended, sensory and natural materials could strengthen play experiences and further enhance children's engagement within community spaces. Developing these opportunities would support deeper engagement, strengthen problem solving skills and help children build meaningful connections with the natural world and their local community, positively supporting learning and wellbeing over time.

(See area for improvement 1)

Children's health, dignity and wellbeing were supported, at times, through daily routines, although some practices would benefit from greater consistency. Infection prevention and control measures were applied appropriately during personal care routines. However, routines such as handwashing before snacks and ensuring children were seated when eating, were not always applied consistently. We signposted the childminder to Setting the table guidance (Scottish Government, 2024) to support their understanding. Additionally, the childminder should support children's privacy during toileting by ensuring toilet doors are closed during use. Providing individual or disposable towels for children to use after they have washed their hands, would help reduce the risk of cross contamination. The childminder should review their approaches to care routines to support children's health and wellbeing.

(See area for improvement 2)**Areas for improvement**

1.

To support children's play, learning and development, the childminder should continue to develop the learning environment by increasing opportunities for exploratory and creative play. This should include, but not be limited to, reviewing toys and materials to further support children's curiosity and imaginative play.

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

"As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I choose, and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity" (HSCS 2.27).

2.

To support children's health, dignity and safety, the childminder should ensure that daily routines are applied consistently across the setting. This should include, but not be limited to, ensuring safe sleep practice is followed at all times and daily health, safety and dignity routines.

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

"My environment is secure and safe"(HSCS 5.19)

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 experienced positive and engaging play. They were able to make choices such as playing with cars or Lego which supported their confidence, enjoyment and emotional wellbeing. Parents reported that their children enjoy attending and are happy in the service.

Children benefited from warm, responsive interactions that supported learning and engagement. The childminder used calm and supportive approaches, allowing children space to explore while remaining available when needed. Positive social behaviours, such as sharing and turn-taking, were modelled in everyday interactions. This helped children to develop communication skills, confidence and positive relationships with others.

The childminder planned a range of experiences to support children's play and learning. We discussed where this could be further developed to reflect where next steps would support children's progression. The childminder demonstrated good knowledge of children's development, interests and next steps. Whilst learning was supported through responsive interactions and play, observations and progression were not routinely recorded. Improving their approach to evaluating children's learning would help demonstrate development over time.

Children's play and learning experiences were enhanced through regular outdoor play and community activities. Children attended local groups and activities that offered a variety of social opportunities, which parents valued. This provided children with meaningful and enjoyable learning experiences across different environments.

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 benefited from care that was responsive to their individual needs and routines. The childminder demonstrated a good understanding of children's preferences, daily routines and family circumstances. Personal plans contained relevant information to support consistency of care and this knowledge was reflected in how children were supported throughout the day. This contributed positively to children's wellbeing and supported stable, familiar experiences.

Children experienced positive and respectful interactions during mealtimes and throughout the day. The childminder sat alongside children, engaged them in conversation and responded sensitively to individual preferences and routines. This supported the development of warm, trusting relationships and helped children feel comfortable, listened to and valued within the setting. As a result, children experienced care that was responsive and underpinned by connection with the childminder and their families.

At the time of inspection, no children required a sleep. We discussed safe sleep practice with the childminder and highlighted where approaches could be further developed. For example, reducing the use of a buggy for sleep and developing risk assessments to support safe use of the upstairs room. Taking these steps would help ensure children experience safe, consistent sleeping arrangements that support their wellbeing and provide reassurance for families.

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 thrive and develop in quality spaces | 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate |
| Children experience high quality spaces | 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate |
| 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 |

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

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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 iartras.

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.