

# Annie's Kids Childminding Child Minding

Wishaw

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
31 May 2024

**Service provided by:**  
Anne Sutherland

**Service provider number:**  
SP2016988588

**Service no:**  
CS2016351922

## About the service

Annie's Kids Childminding is operated by Anne Sutherland. The childminder delivers the service from her family home in Newmains, North Lanarkshire. The detached property is within driving distance to local nurseries, schools and parks. Children attending the service have access to lounge, kitchen/diner, downstairs toilet and back garden.

The service is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than six are under the age of 12, and of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. These numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own child.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 31 May 2024. 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:

- Gathered the views of two family members, of children using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- we observed the childminder's practice and children's experiences
- reviewed documents.

**Key messages**

- Play and learning experiences were well planned to meet children's needs, wishes and choices.
- Children had regular access to quality outdoor play and learning.
- The childminder's interactions were very caring, affectionate and loving.
- Self evaluation was at the early stages of being established within the setting.
- The childminder was very committed to their continuous professional development. We did discuss they would benefit from keeping up to date with good practice guidance.
- Management of medication procedure needed to be improved.

**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

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
How good is our staff team?	4 - Good

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

## How good is our care, play and learning?

5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

### Quality Indicator 1.1 Nurturing care and support

The child present was confident and comfortable in the childminder's care and was settled throughout our visit. The interaction between the childminder and the minded child was caring, loving and respectful.

All new children were welcomed into the service and introductory visits were planned around their needs. Creating positive relationships and bonds was extremely important to the childminder. The childminder ensured they knew the child well, before caring for them. They planned children's care inline with their home routines, as much as possible. This provided continuity and consistency for children. One parent told us that, when choosing to use the service, they 'Felt a strong feeling of calm and trust about choosing her as my child's childminder.'

The childminder had gathered appropriate information to get to know the minded children's needs and had a good understanding of child development. As a result, they planned appropriate care and support. They held records required, such as the child's name and medical requirements and identified targets to support children's needs. We discussed with the childminder to ensure when planning to meet children's needs, agreed plans were kept up to date.

Parents were extremely happy with the care, play and learning their children received. One parents told us they 'Have a good communication' and another was 'Annie keeps me up to date with my child's daily feedback and also any learning/development that has happened.'

### Quality Indicator 1.3 Play and learning

The daily routine was well balanced to provided ample time between playing in the house and garden and being out in the local community. The pace of the day was flexible and responsive to ensure children's needs were met. Children took part in various activities outside of the home including book bug and visiting local parks.

Children were able to select from a range of materials that met their needs and interests. Children had fun playing in the garden, learning how to use their bodies. Inside they played games, used their imaginations and used various building toys.

Children had direct access to the secure outdoor space. Children self-selected if they wanted to play inside or outside and the childminder was skilled at supporting this. They regularly played on the swings and enjoyed playing in the outside toy kitchens. The children also had fun exploring the world outdoors whilst on walks and visits to local green spaces.

The childminder knew the children well and provided the right care, play and learning to meet their needs. They regularly reflected on children progress and planned experiences to support and challenge children's thinking. One child told us that they like 'Learning lots of new things and going on new adventures.'

**How good is our setting?****4 - Good**

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

**Quality Indicator 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities**

The childminder's home was well ventilated, heated and had lots of natural light. The areas used for childminding within the home were risk assessed and we found appropriate safety measures to be in place.

The back garden was secured and suitable for play in all weathers. The garden could be accessed directly from the kitchen diner. Outdoors provided good play experiences. Children enjoyed the swings, climbing frame, toy kitchen and playing on various bikes and scooters. The childminder explained, some items in the garden were waiting to be removed, such as the old washing machine.

The childminder's home was clean and well maintained. They had created a welcoming environment. On arrival, the inspector was welcomed into the house. The inspector was shown into the living room and kitchen area. The minded child was playing with some resources and asked to play outside. The childminder responded and the child was happy and comfortable in the childminder's home. They were familiar with the materials on offer and were having fun playing a fishing game.

The childminder provided children with meals, we advised them to contact the food agency to find out about registration.

The childminder followed good practice guidance in areas such as nappy changing and hand hygiene. They also ensured that when transporting children by car they did so safely. Children had the correct car seats. However, we asked the childminder to refer to the childminding fire safety guidance around securing doors when using keys. they agreed to do this.

**How good is our leadership?****4 - Good**

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

**Quality Indicator 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well**

The childminder has been minding for seven years and had a good knowledge of providing a childminding service. To date, they have had lots of positive feedback from parents and children. This had given them reassurance that they are doing well. Recently they had use the Care Inspectorate quality framework to help self evaluate the quality of service provided. They were at the early stages of self evaluation, and agreed the next steps would be to evaluate how well they are doing and identify where further improvements could be made. More information can be found on the Care Inspectorate Hub under How we support Improvement.

During discussions and reflections with the childminder about aspects within the service, we did identify some an areas where further development could be made. This was in relation to recording of agreed plans to support children's needs and ensuring they kept informed of good practice guidance. This was to ensure they planned and provided the right care and support meeting children needs. We have made an area for improvement on the management of medication.

The childminder consulted with the children daily. The children self selected and made decisions about their care, play and learning throughout their time at the service. Children were confident making choices for example, if they wanted to play inside or out, when they want a snack and what games they wanted to play.

The childminder should ensure they submit information requests by the Care Inspectorate. This includes the annual return and notification of any changes to the service or those living in the house used for childminding.

## Areas for improvement

1.  
To ensure the health and wellbeing of children the provider should ensure the service management of medication policy and procedure follows good practice guidance. To achieve this improvements are needed, this includes but is not limited to, medication being provided by the parents of the child and written consent being given.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state that as a child, any treatment or intervention that I experience is safe and effective. (HCSC 1.24).

## How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement

### Quality Indicator 4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values

The childminder was caring and kind. When discussing the minded children and the families that had used the service, they did so with respect. Parents had formed positive relationships with them. Parents told us 'Annie is fantastic! She's very approachable' and 'has a great bond with the children and always goes that extra mile.'

The childminder had planned and provided personalised care and supported families, meeting the children's needs. They demonstrated a good understanding of child development. To further support this, the childminder was undertaking a qualification in childcare, they hoped to complete this soon.

We did discuss with the childminder the need to keep up to date with good practice guidance. For example, for administration of medication. They had kept their skills and knowledge up to date in child protection and safeguarding and first aid.

Overall, the childminder was an experienced childcare worker and had the values to provide a quality childcare service. Children received care and support from a homely environment.

## 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

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	4 - Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	4 - Good
How good is our staff team?	4 - Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	4 - Good

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