

Gartloch Village Childminding Child Minding

Glasgow

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
17 April 2025

Service provided by:
Megan Scott

Service provider number:
SP2023000078

Service no:
CS2023000118

About the service

The childminder provides the service from their family home in the Gartloch area of Glasgow.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than six will be under 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. At the time of the inspection there were two children present.

Children are cared for in the lounge and dining area. The accommodation consists of kitchen and toilet facilities. Children have access to a spacious and secure garden for physical play and outdoor learning. The service is close to schools, transport routes, shops and community services.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 15 April 2025. The inspection was carried out by two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate. One inspector was shadowing as part of their induction process. 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:

- spoke with the child attending the service
- reviewed feedback from two parents and carers whose children attend the service
- observed practice and the childminders interactions with children
- spoke with the childminder
- reviewed documents.

As part of this inspection we undertook a focus area. We have gathered specific information to help us understand more about how services support children's safety, wellbeing and engagement in their play and learning. This included reviewing the following aspects:

- staff deployment
- safety of the physical environment, indoors and outdoors
- the quality of personal plans and how well children's needs are being met
- children's engagement with the experiences provided in their setting

This information will be anonymised and analysed to help inform our future work with services.

Key messages

- The childminder used warm, kind and nurturing approaches in their interactions.
- The childminder had developed and maintained strong relationships with children, parents and families.
- Children were settled and having fun. The childminder was responsive to their interests and choices for play.
- The childminder should extend their resources to support children having daily access to arts and crafts and loose parts materials.
- Children benefitted from regular visits to places in the local community.
- The childminder regularly reviewed the services policies, procedures and risk assessments to support children's safety, security and well-being.
- Self-evaluation processes could be further developed to reflect the improvements that had been made to improve outcomes for children and their families.
- The childminder showed an interest and commitment to developing their skills and knowledge through their attendance at professional development opportunities.

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?	4 - Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

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

How good is our care, play and learning?

4 - Good

We made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, when taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support

We evaluated this quality indicator as very good, where significant strengths supported positive outcomes for children.

The childminder had developed close, caring relationships with the children which meant they were comfortable in their care. The childminder responded warmly to the children, following their cues, interests and wishes throughout our visit. The childminder was attentive to all the children when they approached them for support and provided comfort. Parents told us, "I know that my child is safe and having the best time everyday. The days are always filled with interactive and fun activities. Megan is so caring and attentive with the kids. I wouldn't send my child anywhere else" and "Megan is fantastic and the best at what she does. She is so patient and caring with all the kids."

From discussions with the childminder, it was clear that they worked closely with families to ensure they were familiar with each child's needs and routines. This contributed to providing continuity of care for the children and supported the childminder to meet children's individual needs.

The childminder spoke knowledgeably about children, their individual routines and how they accommodated them within the service. This contributed to children feeling safe and secure.

The childminder shared with us their settling in procedure. They told us, new children and parents were invited to visit her home on a number of occasions prior to their start date. This provided children and their families an opportunity to establish relationships with the childminder and for children to become familiar with the environment.

Children had opportunities for drinking water throughout the day supporting children to be rehydrated. Children used the dining area located in the kitchen to eat their meals. Children were provided with a snack during our visit. The childminder sat with the children at a table and was supervising and talking to them throughout the mealtime experience. This contributed to a safe, sociable, relaxed and unhurried experience.

Personal Plans were in place for children and were created in partnership with parents and carers. Personal plans included contact details, health and medical and all about me information for children. Plans were regularly updated and were reflective of children's current needs and interests.

Children attending the service on the day of inspection did not require any medication. The childminder had medication administration records available if a child required medication and told us medication would be stored out of reach of children. The childminder had a medication policy in place contributing to supporting children's health and well-being.

Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning

We made an evaluation of good for this quality indicator, as several important strengths, when taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

During our visit, the children were engaged in play experiences and were happy and having fun. The childminder was joining in play with them and responsive to their interests and choices. Children played with jigsaws, supporting their development of fine motor, numeracy and language skills. The childminder was reading stories to children supporting their language and literacy development. Children were dancing to music providing opportunities for their creativity skills and physical movement and development. We saw photographs of children joining in activities using arts and craft materials and discussed with the childminder having these items accessible for children throughout the course of the day, to widen their choices for play. We discussed with the childminder further widening children's experiences with opportunities to explore natural and loose parts materials in their home.

The childminder was skilful in their interactions and engagement with the children. There was a balance of the childminder allowing children to have freedom to play, explore and be challenged. We observed the childminder engaged in play and having effective discussions and questioning to support children's play and learning. The childminder also recognised when was suitable to step back from play to allow the children to explore their own interests and ideas.

At times children came together to play, other times children were happy to play on their own and explore their individual interests. The childminder invited both children to participate in all experiences and respected their decision when they chose not to. This contributed to an inclusive and respectful approach for all children.

Daily updates were being shared with families of the children's play and learning to include photographs of activities for the day. This supported parents to be informed about children's play and learning, provided opportunities for comments and feedback and for parents to take their child's learning forward. Parents told us, "Megan is always happy to discuss their activities and sends daily updates of everything they have gotten up to that day" and "Megan always keeps us up to date with what is going on. There is a good line of communication. She is easy to speak with and very approachable."

Development milestones were being used to track children's skills, learning and progression. This contributed to supporting and extending children's play and learning. The childminder was recording observations and summary reports for children and planned for next steps for children's play and learning. We could see the progression of skills and learning. Improvements could be made to planning processes with experiences and observations being linked to practice documents. Regular and meaningful observations and next steps have the potential to support progression in children's play and learning.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

We evaluated this key question as very good, where significant strengths supported positive outcomes for children.

Quality indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities

The childminder had created a play space in the lounge area which was spacious and comfortable. Additional cosy spaces had been created with the use of a tent and cushions providing a comfortable space for children to rest and relax throughout the day. Children used the dining area located in the kitchen to eat their meals and could use this area for play and learning. The childminder's home was well maintained, safe, secure, clean and bright. This supported children's health, safety and well-being. Parents agreed and told us, "Megan's home is spotless and doors/gates are locked" and "The house is always well maintained. All entries are secured. I know my child is safe every day he is there."

Children had direct access to a safe and secure garden to play. The area was surfaced with a mixture of decking, grass and concrete. The area was spacious, and children had toys to choose from to play. There were opportunities for risky, challenging and active play with physical apparatus of slides and bikes. The mud kitchen provides opportunities for children's creativity, curiosity and imagination skills.

Children regularly visited areas within the local community and used this as an opportunity to explore the natural environment. Children visited the community garden on a weekly basis and had the opportunity to interact with local school children. Children and the childminder had grown their own vegetables. This provided children with a deeper understanding of where food items come from and helped to develop a positive attitude towards healthy eating. Parents told us, "They often play in the garden when the weather is nice or visit the local community garden to help out, where they have picked vegetables to take home. They also go for walks regularly and look for animals/plants" and "Megan has educational games set out for the boys each day. They also go on days out to parks, farms, soft play etc so there is always a wide range of experiences."

Indoors, toys, games and books were stored in boxes accessible to the children and encouraged choice, independence and supported their interests for play. Opportunities were available for children to be creative in their play and support children's curiosity and imagination through provocations. A provocation is an open-ended resource that can create a context for children to explore their ideas.

Risk assessments of the home and outdoors were in place. The childminder had reviewed the risk assessments and these were supporting the childminder to consider potential hazards and reduce risks to minimise accidents and injury to support children's safety, security and well-being.

Infection, prevention and control measures were in place. The toilet area was clean and soap and individual towels were available for handwashing. Children and the childminder carried out handwashing well. The childminder wore personal protective equipment when carrying out personal care tasks. This contributed to minimising the spread of infection to support children's health and well-being.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

We made an evaluation of good for this key question, as several important strengths, when taken together, clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The childminder was new to childminding and since registration had developed and reviewed their processes and systems in place to support with providing care, play and learning to children and families attending their service. In addition, the childminder had continued to develop their service by making improvements to their garden space.

Policies and procedures were in place and had been reviewed showing the childminders commitment for these to reflect the service being provided and in accordance with current guidance. These were shared with parents and families and provided an opportunity for them to provide comments and feedback. This contributed to partnership working and valuing parents and families contributions.

The childminder had engaged in a process of self-evaluation of the service. This highlighted the strengths of the service and areas where improvements could be made. The childminder was using this plan to make improvements. We discussed the self-evaluation could be enhanced by capturing when areas for improvement have been met to easily identify the progress being made.

The childminder had made a positive start to involve families in self-evaluation. There had been an opportunity for families to provide feedback on the service, share their views and make suggestions to improve. The childminder told us they would be developing further opportunities to involve parents, children and families in self-evaluation as their service grows. One parent told us, "Megan has asked us to complete a survey previously and would definitely take on any feedback should there ever be any."

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

We evaluated this key question as very good, where significant strengths supported positive outcomes for children.

Quality indicator 4.1: Knowledge, skills and values

The childminder was in partnership with Glasgow City Council to provide funded early learning and childcare. The childminder was a member of the Scottish Childminder Association (SCMA). The childminder gathered SCMA's resources to record information on children and develop their knowledge and understanding of best practice to support children's health, safety and wellbeing. SCMA is a national umbrella organisation who are dedicated to supporting childminding provision.

The childminder valued the opportunity for professional discussions with local childminders on a weekly basis. These had informed their practice and was an opportunity to attend continuous professional development and share their own knowledge and experience with other childminders.

The childminder made very good use of professional development opportunities to include first aid, food hygiene, autism and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). This contributed to the childminder refreshing and updating their skills and knowledge and understanding. The childminder referred to Care Inspectorate Hub to keep informed of best practice. This shows their commitment to keep up to date with best practice to support children's health, safety, well-being and play and learning.

The childminder had attended child protection and safeguarding training. The childminder had a child protection policy in place. They were aware of their responsibility to safeguard children in their care and had the ability to recognise when children and families needed support.

The childminder had fostered and developed strong relationships with children and families attending the service. Attachments had formed between the childminder and children attending, enabling a feeling of comfort, security and belonging. Parents commented, their child has "come on leaps and bounds since being with Megan. She is a fantastic childminder and the kids are so lucky to have her. Always has a brilliant day when he is there" and "Our child adores Megan and we always know they have his best interests at heart. I would recommend Megan to anyone if they ask and we are very grateful that she was recommended to us."

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

How good is our care, play and learning?	4 - Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	4 - Good

How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very 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?	5 - Very Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	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

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.