

Kirsty Stewart's Childminding Service

Child Minding

Dundee

Type of inspection:
Announced (short notice)

Completed on:
26 May 2025

Service provided by:
Kirsty Stewart

Service provider number:
SP2017989345

Service no:
CS2017360050

About the service

Kirsty Stewart's Childminding Service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 12, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and no more than one is under 12 months.

Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

Overnight care may not be provided.

Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.

This childminding service is provided from the childminder's home, an upper floor flat in a residential area of Invergowrie. Children had access to the living room, kitchen and toilet.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 26 May 2025. 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 registration information, previous inspection findings, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- observed the children at play and their interactions with the childminder
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily routines
- reviewed documents.

Families were offered the opportunity to share their feedback of the service with us during the inspection. No feedback was received on this occasion.

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:

- safety of the physical environment
- 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

- Children were happy and relaxed in the childminder's care.
- A strong emphasis was placed on accessing the local and wider community.
- Personal plans should be further developed and reviewed with families at least every six months to ensure the childminder has the most current information to meet children's needs.
- The childminder should continue to develop the self-evaluation of her service, identifying areas for development and regularly evaluate any progress made.

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?	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?

4 - Good

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

Quality Indicator 1.1 Nurturing care and support.

Children experienced warm, kind and caring approaches which supported their overall wellbeing. They were happy and relaxed and approached the childminder with confidence. It was evident positive, nurturing relationships had been formed.

Information was gathered for children through personal plans and 'All about me' documents. This helped the childminder care for and support the children. Personal plans could be further developed to consider the wellbeing indicators, 'SHANARRI' (safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected and responsible). This would ensure information gathered was used effectively to ensure positive outcomes for children. Some children did not have fully completed plans and some information had not been reviewed with families at least every six months. The childminder should ensure that children's personal plans are fully completed and reviewed at least every six months with families. This is to ensure the childminder has the most current information to meet children's needs. **(See area for improvement 1.)**

Families provided packed lunches and snacks for their children. These were stored safely to ensure food was kept fresh. The childminder sat with the children which provided a relaxed and social experience. Younger children were encouraged to eat their food independently. This supported them to develop life skills and a sense of responsibility.

Quality Indicator 1.3 Play and learning.

The childminder shared with us the weekly routine that included visits to local toddler groups, parks and the library. Children also benefitted from regular outings in the wider community. This supported children's social skills and sense of belonging.

Children had developed good attachments with the childminder and felt safe and secure in her care. During the inspection, she sat on the floor joining in the children's play and singing. The childminder listened to them and supported their language and vocabulary. As a result, children's developing language and communication was supported well.

Children also benefited from a wide range of planned activities and experiences. These included looking after the childminder's bearded dragons and planting in the garden. This supported children's sense of responsibility.

The childminder previously used learning journals to document observations of children's play and learning. She was now developing a floorbook. The childminder should continue to develop this and reintroduce children's learning journals to document children's progress, achievements and next steps. This will support children to progress and develop a broad range of lifelong learning skills.

Areas for improvement

1. To support children's care, wellbeing and development, the childminder should develop children's personal plans. This should include, but is not limited to;

- ensuring personal plans detail children's wellbeing needs, strategies in place and next steps
- ensuring personal plans are fully completed and signed by parents/carers
- ensuring all information included in personal plans is reviewed at least every six months with families and children (where appropriate).

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).

How good is our setting?

4 - Good

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

Quality Indicator 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities.

The childminder's home offered a homely and comfortable environment for children. The indoor environment provided sufficient space for children to play and relax. The living room was laid out with a range of toys. Resources were clean, in good condition and appropriate for children's stage of development. The childminder planned to introduce more natural and open-ended resources. This would offer children more opportunities to be explorative, creative and use their imaginations.

Children benefitted from a tidy and well-maintained environment. Suitable infection prevention and control measures were in place. Personal protective equipment (PPE) was stored safely and within easy reach of the childminder for use during nappy changing. This supported children's health and wellbeing.

The childminder shared that children did not access the garden area due to it needing some attention. The childminder should ensure any garden maintenance is completed in a timely manner to ensure that not accessing the garden has an impact on children's play opportunities.

Children's health and wellbeing benefitted from a safe and secure environment. Risk assessments were in place for the home and garden. We asked the childminder to ensure she has a risk assessment in place for any outings. This would help minimise risk to children.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

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

Quality Indicator 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well.

A vision, values and aims were in place which reflected the service provided. These were play and care

based. These were shared with families in a welcome pack when they visited the service. This supported families to know what to expect, from the service offered.

Detailed policies and procedures were in place which underpinned the service. These were reviewed regularly to support the childminder to have the most current information to meet children and families needs.

The childminder shared she planned to make improvements to her resources and outdoor environment. The childminder should now make herself more familiar with the Care Inspectorate guidance 'A quality framework for day care of children, childminding and school aged children'. She should use this as a self-evaluation tool to help her identify any further improvements required to support positive outcomes for children. We suggested developing a small action plan to support improvement. We suggested the childminder use SMART targets (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound). This would ensure the action plan is a meaningful working document that supports ongoing improvement to the service.

Feedback from families was welcomed, however, the childminder shared she had found it challenging to gain feedback. We suggested questionnaires and informal voting systems. The childminder should continue to collate feedback from parents and children and use any suggestions to inform improvements to the service.

How good is our staff team?

4 – Good

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

Quality Indicator 4.1 Staff skills knowledge and values.

The childminder was warm, friendly and approachable and shared she had established good relationships with children and their families. The childminder shared information with families through daily conversations at drop off/pick up times, messages and newsletters. These were good opportunities to ensure parents were included and involved in what their children were doing when attending the service.

The childminder was motivated and enthusiastic and spoke positively of how their continuous professional development supported them to provide a quality service to children and families. She had recently completed a BA in Childhood Practice and had undertaken core training which included child protection and first aid. She had also undertaken additional training which included child development. This supported positive outcomes for children.

The childminder regularly engaged in professional discussions with other childminders in the area, who they met regularly through outings and groups. This supported the childminder to build on their knowledge and effectiveness.

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	4 - Good
1.3 Play and learning	4 - 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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