

Little Guest's Child Minding

Falkirk

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
12 June 2025

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2023000079

Service no:
CS2023000120

About the service

Kymerley Guest, trading as Little Guest's, operates a childminding service from their home in Airth, Falkirk. The childminder may provide care to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than six are under 12 years; of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school; and no more than one under 12 months of age. Numbers are inclusive of the children of the childminder's family.

The service offers children space to play and rest in the living-dining area of the home. Toilet facilities are situated on the ground floor. The garden area to the rear of the property offers children outdoor space for active play. The service is close to local amenities including shops, parks, local nurseries and schools.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Tuesday 10 June 2025 between 12:30 and 14:45. 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, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since registration.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- reviewed digital responses from six families
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and interactions with children
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children experienced warm, caring and nurturing approaches from the childminder.
- Positive relationships had been established with children and families.
- The childminder understood the positive impact that outdoor play had on children's overall wellbeing.
- Children benefitted from a homely environment that was clean, tidy and comfortable.
- The childminder should record improvement plans for the service and share with families.

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 different parts of this key question as Very Good and Good, with an overall grade of Good. Several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality Indicator 1.1 - Nurturing care and support

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

Children were cared for with warmth and a nurturing approach. They experienced care that was well considered to meet their individual needs. The childminder understood the importance of developing positive relationships with families. This ensured clear communication which supported children to feel safe and secure.

All families who responded to our survey questionnaire "strongly agreed" that they had a good relationship with the childminder. They told us, "Kym is easy to speak to if you have any problems, she is very friendly and approachable" and "I feel that we have a wonderful and easy-going relationship, built on mutual trust and reliability."

Families provided snacks and packed lunches for children. Although we did not observe mealtimes, the childminder spoke knowledgeably about the benefits of everyone coming together to eat. They recognised the importance of sitting and eating with children when possible, to keep them safe as they ate. They also understood that a relaxed, unhurried mealtime provided a positive social experience and was a rich opportunity to promote close attachments.

Children's overall wellbeing was supported through the effective use of personal planning. The childminder used this information, alongside information shared informally by families at drop off and pick up time, to support children's routines. Personal plans were updated regularly with families. As a result, the childminder could respond to changes in children's lives. This further encouraged strong relationships and meant children experienced a consistent and continuous approach to their care.

The childminder had a good understanding of how important sleep routines were for children's emotional security and wellbeing. Routines were reflective of individual children's needs and reflected families' preferences. We discussed the importance of encouraging good habits around sleep and highlighted best practice guidance such as, Safer Sleep for Babies - A guide for professionals.

Quality Indicator 1.3 - Play and learning

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

The childminder was responsive in their approach to offering play and learning opportunities. There was a mixture of planned adult led routines, such as attending groups, as well as spontaneous child led play.

We observed the childminder responding compassionately whilst supporting a young child as they explored age and stage appropriate toys. They chatted to the child throughout the inspection and responded warmly to the child's babbling. Lots of smiles and good eye contact supported the child's pre-verbal

communication as they interacted in a meaningful way. As a result, children were developing secure attachments as they had fun playing.

Children's experiences were recorded and shared with families in a variety of ways, such as, sharing photographs digitally and within personal plans. Children's development and progress was considered and recorded for some children attending the service. We discussed highlighting the skills children were learning within observations and identifying their potential next steps. This would ensure progress is recorded for all children and would promote children's self-esteem as they celebrated and shared their learning achievements.

The local community was well used by the childminder to extend children's experiences. They had fun as they explored nature, visited parks and met with other children and adults at local groups they attended. As a result, children's opportunities for play and learning were improved as they developed strong connections to their own and wider communities.

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

Children benefitted from a homely environment that was clean, tidy and comfortable. The large sofa and soft furnishings, such as cushions and rug, created cosy spaces for children to rest and relax. The entrance area to the childminders home had been thoughtfully considered and welcomed families with information about the service. For example, training certificates, how children were kept safe and holiday information. One family told us, "it's a home from home service which was perfect for us." Another described the service as a "relaxed family environment."

The layout of the large lounge-dining area meant children had ample space for their needs and supported them to independently access toys and activities. This gave children a message that they mattered. We discussed introducing more loose parts, open-ended and sensory resources for children. This would promote children's natural curiosity, creativity and support them to develop problem solving skills.

The childminder understood the positive impact that outdoor play had on children's overall wellbeing and made good use of parks, walks and outings. The garden at the rear of the property was fully enclosed and secure, and was sometimes used for outdoor play. The childminder acknowledged that the outdoor space could be further developed to reflect children's interests and take account of their stages of development.

The property was well maintained. Infection prevention and control measures were in place. Cleaning routines supported a clean environment and meant the spread of infection was minimised. Handwashing at key times and the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) would further enhance infection prevention and control measures.

The childminder understood the importance of keeping children's personal information secure. They asked families for permission before taking photographs and shared their confidentiality policy with families using the service.

We suggested the childminder explored developing more detailed risk assessments for the service. Involving children in assessing risks would provide opportunities for them to learn important life skills. This would

also ensure potential risks were fully recognised and minimised as children enjoyed the variety of experiences offered by the service.

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 improvements are led well

The vision, values and aims of the service were evident in the warm interactions and positive relationships we observed during the inspection. The encouraging and supportive ethos meant that children felt loved, secure and safe.

Positive relationships had been established with children and families and the childminder knew them well. Their views were gathered through observations, informal discussions and questionnaires. These were used to influence the care provided and were considered when planning improvements within the service. We discussed the importance of the childminder documenting their improvement plan and sharing this with children and families. This would provide an opportunity for the childminder to share the progress, successes and achievements of the service.

The childminder was developing systems to support their self-evaluation process. They had attended information sessions and had reached out to other professionals for support. For example, the Scottish Childminding Association. We highlighted the Care Inspectorate Hub to further support the childminder as they develop and record self-evaluation in ways that work well for the service.

The childminder had developed positive working relationships with the local authority and the Scottish Childminding Association. They were approved to work in partnership with Falkirk Council to provide funded childcare for some children. As a result, children experienced care and support from a committed and motivated childminder.

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 enthusiastic childminder demonstrated a good understanding of how children develop and learn. They were committed to providing the best possible experiences for children. They had achieved a recognised early learning and childcare qualification and made good use of training opportunities. They regularly engaged with other childminders in the area to share ideas and good practice. The childminder should continue to reflect on their practice and the needs of children in their care as they consider future professional development opportunities.

Kind and responsive interactions supported children to feel happy and secure. The childminder understood the importance of listening to children and families. This enabled them to build strong relationships and provide appropriate care and support for individuals.

One family said, "She is excellent and my [child] loves her. She makes a situation that could be stressful very easy for us as a family." Another parent told us, "I feel [my child] has had a very positive and nurturing

experience. One of the most important aspects is the strong bond they have developed with the childminder. It's clear that they feel safe, secure, and happy in her care."

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?	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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