

Reid, Christine Child Minding

Kilmarnock

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
3 July 2025

Service provided by:
Christine Reid

Service provider number:
SP2014986348

Service no:
CS2014331472

About the service

The service is provided by Christine Reid, and is provided from her home in a residential area of Kilmarnock. Children are cared for on the ground floor of the home and have access to an open play living/dining area, which has direct access to secure outdoor play area. Mrs Reid is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. At the time of the inspection, there were two minded children, who were not yet attending primary school, present during the inspection.

The service works in partnership with the local authority to provide funded early learning and childcare places.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Wednesday, 2 July 2025 between 09:15 and 11:30 hours. One inspector carried out the inspection 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:

- spent time with two children using the service
- received three responses to our request for feedback from parents
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and children's experiences
- 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 was caring and nurturing and had developed positive relationships with children and their families.
- Children and families benefitted from a childminder who was knowledgeable and demonstrated a desire to continually improve.
- Parents told us how important the childminder is to their children and families.
- Personal plan records were in place which supported the childminder deliver tailored care that met children's individual needs.
- The childminder provided a home-from-home setting that was well maintained and safe.
- Trusting relationships with families and regular communication with parents meant they were actively involved in their children's care.

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?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very 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?

5 - Very Good

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

Quality indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support

Children benefitted from warm, nurturing interactions. The childminder was patient and caring. She supported children very well, offering cuddles and comfort when this was needed, helping children feel secure and cared for. Parents spoke positively of the childminder's relationship with their children. One commented, "Christine creates such a warm and nurturing environment, our son always come home happy and excited to tell us about his day."

Children's care was supported through effective information sharing. The childminder used personal plans to record important information about children's wellbeing needs. Parents told us they were involved in reviewing these regularly, to ensure information was up to date and relevant. The childminder used the GIRFEC (Getting It Right For Every Child) wellbeing indicators to help assess and plan support for children. This supported individualised care, which met children's needs.

Children experienced pleasant, relaxed mealtimes. They were encouraged to drink and had access to water bottles throughout the day to help them stay hydrated. Children were well supervised, and the childminder followed safe food preparation practices to minimise the risk of choking. Appropriate seating was in place and children were offered a choice of sitting at the large or small tables which ensured all children could sit comfortably and safely. Children had opportunities to be independent, with appropriate support and were encouraged to make choices about what they wanted to eat. These measures resulted in safe, enjoyable mealtime experiences for children.

Children's care routines met their wellbeing needs. The childminder explained how children would be supported if they wanted a rest or sleep. Regular checks would help ensure a safe sleeping experience. During nappy changes, toileting and handwashing, the childminder offered appropriate support and respected children's privacy.

Medication was stored safely, recording and administered in line with current best practice.

Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children experienced quality play and learning opportunities throughout the home. The layout of the resources provided children with opportunity to freely access them and encouraged independence and choice. Real attention and detail had been placed on each area of play to support play experiences which included interactive areas and resources linked to their interests. This meant that there were opportunities for children to engage in purposeful play and learning in the environment.

Children enjoyed looking at a selection of books, including a story about a pirate. This encouraged children's imagination, and they were very interested when the childminder spoke about this further with them. The childminder adapted her language to suit children's level of understanding and allowed children time to process and respond to questions. Counting in songs, and as part of daily routines, helped support children's understanding of numbers. This resulted in children of all ages learning as they played.

Play spaces and experiences indoors and out promoted learning and engagement. One parent commented, "He is learning something new all the time;" another said, "Play and learning is always kept fun and age appropriate." We observed children engaged in counting experiences and other children were supported to join in and count along too. Early numeracy was promoted as a result. A parent said, "My child has the opportunity to learn and develop in a safe and nurturing environment led by a very devoted individual, couldn't ask for anything more." We observed children transporting resources around the spaces to lead their own play. The childminder had a very good understanding of how children learn through play. As a result, children were accessing a fun and stimulating environment that supported their learning and development.

Planning for individual children's experiences was responsive which supported children to learn and develop through play. This was evidenced through the childminders responsive planning and development records. The childminder observed children's interests and planned experiences and outings based on these and children's next steps. One parent told us, "There is always different activities for my son to do on different days and also different outings allowing them to progress in their learning."

The childminder had a very good understanding of the importance of children having opportunities to play outdoors and ensured they had regular access. The childminder spoke positively about the strong connections to the community and the places the service visits regularly. The childminder ensured the children accessed outdoors daily with visits to the local shops, parks and community groups. This helped enrich children's learning and enabled them to develop positive links with their community.

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

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

Quality indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities

Children were cared for in clean, well-maintained surroundings. They spent most of their time in the living room, which was comfortably furnished with a sofa, and well displayed resources. Safety gates indoors and out helped keep children safe.

Children could choose from a range of play resources. During the inspection, these included a toy kitchen, games, books, dinosaurs and small world characters. Children had fun pretending to cook, playing at serving in a shop and building with Megablocks. Further resources were stored in a cupboard, and these included games and art supplies for children, that were easily accessible to them. The childminder was careful to make sure all resources were age-appropriate, providing a safe and enjoyable experience for children.

Children had regular access to outdoor play. The enclosed garden was very well resourced to ensure that children could explore, take part in risky play and lots of opportunities to plant and grow wildflower seeds.

A mud kitchen, sand and water provided opportunities for sensory play. Regular trips to local parks further promoted physical play and fresh air for children. Parents commented positively about these opportunities, with one telling us, "Outdoor play is brilliant and the kids love their day trips with [the childminder]."

Children benefitted from safe surroundings. The childminder had undertaken risk assessments to identify any potential hazards. One parent told us, "The environment is amazing really safe and secure and always well maintained. We couldn't ask for anything better." The childminder had a very good knowledge and understanding of potential risks and had a range of risk assessments for the environment and outings. The childminder spoke to children about safety in ways they would understand. This helped children begin to understand safety and how to manage risk.

Children's health and safety was promoted through effective infection prevention and control measures. The childminder wiped the table before mealtimes, and the environment was clean and tidy. The childminder cleaned children's noses and faces, and encouraged regular handwashing with appropriate handwash, and individual towels. These measures helped prevent cross-contamination to ensure children's wellbeing.

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

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

Quality indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvement are led well

Children were cared for by a childminder with clear aims, which reflected her caring ethos. Parents were provided with information about the service before children started to support their understanding of what to expect.

The childminder demonstrated a positive commitment to improving her service and she regularly sought the views of the children and families. Families had opportunities to be involved in developing the service. Parents when asked, they told us they strongly agreed that their views were listened to. One commented that, "[the childminder] is always open to any questions/requests we may have." The childminder's practices helped children and families feel listened to and valued.

The childminder had developed her quality assurance practices. She used a self-evaluation tool to identify strengths in the service and support her to plan areas for development. This had led to improvements, such as the childminder evaluating the effectiveness of current outdoor play experiences and improving these to include more planting and growing in the garden. By doing this, she ensured that the experiences on offer were always meeting the children's individual interests and learning.

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

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

Quality indicator 4.1: Staff skills, knowledge and values

Children were cared for by a knowledgeable childminder. She had attended all required core training such as child protection, first aid, food hygiene and infection prevention and control. She had also undertaken reading and training about specific topics to help them understand how to support individual children's needs. She spoke competently about how the knowledge she had gained had supported her to develop very

good practice such as individualised care routines for children. The childminder had secured two professional qualifications, which had supported her to have a deeper knowledge of how children learn and develop.

The childminder's professionalism and commitment to ongoing professional development and learning was a key strength. The childminder kept a record of her continuing professional development, reflecting on what she had learnt. As a result, children received a high quality care and support that was based on best practice and national guidance.

The childminder had a very good understanding of the importance of fostering positive relationships. When children were settling in the service, they were offered visits with their parents which were tailored to suit their needs. The childminder's flexible approach supported children to feel comfortable and confident in the setting.

Relationships with parents were positive and supportive. The childminder strived to promote an environment where parents felt confident in the care their children received. Parents told us, "The childminder has helped us in so many ways, we are super grateful for all the support she gives him. I believe if we didn't send him he wouldn't be as far on with his skill set and confidence levels." Another parent told us, "Our son has an incredible relationship with childminder which he wouldn't have gotten in a nursery setting."

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?	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?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	5 - Very Good

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