

# Gower, Margaret Child Minding

Bellshill

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
24 June 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Margaret Gower

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003902504

**Service no:**  
CS2003004450

## About the service

Mrs Gower is registered as a childminder to provide a service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age 16; of whom a maximum of six will be under 12-years; 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 the childminder's own children.

The service is provided from the childminder's home in Bellshill, North Lanarkshire. The areas within the home used for childminding are the living room, kitchen on the ground floor of the house, and the bathroom on the upper floor. The service has a secure garden to the rear of the house.

The service had four children registered to receive care during the week of the inspection. Two of the minded children were present during our inspection visit.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 24 June 2025 between 09:10 and 10:40. 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:

- spoke with and observed two children's experiences
- we gathered feedback from two families of children using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- The childminder's interactions showed they cared for and loved looking after the children, and provided high quality care and support.
- The children's daily experiences and routines were planned to meet children's needs, wishes, and choices.
- The childminder continually reflected on the service provided and made improvements to practice to ensure the best quality outcomes for children.
- The childminder kept well informed of good practice guidance, and had good links with other childminding services.

## 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, as we found significant strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children.

### Quality indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support

The children were very confident and happy in the childminder's care. We saw that the children were settled and the interactions between the childminder and the children were very caring, loving, and respectful. Parents told us that they strongly agreed they had good relationships with the childminder. One parent told us, "Perfect relationship. Margaret is always welcoming, approachable, friendly and happy." Another said, "Margaret is caring, understanding and easy to get along with." The childminder had formed very close bonds with the children and their families resulting in the children and parents feeling safe, secure, and welcomed in the service.

The childminding service was registered as a food business and provided the children with healthy and nutritious homecooked meals. The children told us they really liked the food options and confirmed that they were given healthy choices. On the day of the inspection, children were having morning snack of toast and fruit which they ate together, sitting around the table in the kitchen, whilst they chatted and made plans for the rest of the day. We heard children making choices about the foods and dietary requirements, and personal preferences being respected. All parents were happy with the meals their children received, with one parent sharing, "Lots of opportunities to eat healthy, try new foods whilst having old favourites available and get all the nutrients required." Another told us, "Margaret makes the best food, there is always a range of fruit and veg offered to the kids." To further enable children to have a healthy relationship with food, we saw that children had fun pretending to make food in the role play kitchen.

Children's health and wellbeing was fully supported during their time in the service. The childminder was very well informed about the importance of providing a nurturing environment, and supporting children to express their feelings. We observed the childminder supporting children to express their feelings whilst recognising the feelings of others. Parents told us that when children needed a rest or nap, the childminder followed their normal home routines. This provided continuity of care. The childminder's home was welcoming and created a nurturing and caring environment for children to feel nurtured and loved.

Each child's personal plan gathered meaningful information on what matters to the child, and demonstrated the childminder planned the right care and support to meet their needs. Plans were reviewed and agreed with parents. Parents told us they strongly agreed they had been fully involved in their child's care, including developing and reviewing their personal plans. One parent told us, "My childminder always keeps me up to date on a daily basis on what they have been doing and how the kids are." Another shared, "I am fully aware of all of this and Margaret ensures to discuss it all with me."

### Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children's daily routines were planned around their care needs to ensure they had sufficient time to play, learn, and have fun. We observed children to be making choices in their play. Children were problem solving, working together, and using their imaginations whilst playing with construction and role play materials. The childminder was highly skilled at providing support when needed to aid children's learning.

They supported children's language development through the use of simple sentences, repeating words, and giving praise. We could see they knew children well, they offered further play and learning when they saw children were ready for a challenge or a change.

Parents strongly agreed children had really good play and learning experiences. One parent told us, "There are always a wide range of toys and activities for the kids to play with/partake in which Margaret rotates regularly so they have a variety." Another told us, "There are so many opportunities for play and learning, from toys to toddler groups, trips and walks. The days are always active and varied as required."

Children had access to the secure outdoor space and they could choose to play inside or outside, as they had direct access to the garden from the kitchen. Parents told us they were very happy with the variety of outdoor play and learning experiences their children participated in. One parent told us, "Margaret's garden is ideal for the children to play and has lots of toys that the children love. She is always adding more. It's a fun and safe environment to play." The children's daily routine incorporated meaningful and well-balanced outdoor play, both at home and out in the local community.

The childminder's understanding of child development, use of theory, and good practice guidance, enabled them to plan the right care, play, and learning experiences. The experiences and materials provided children with well planned opportunities to stimulate, challenge, and nurtured their rights to play and learn lifelong skills.

## How good is our setting?

## 5 - Very Good

We evaluated this key question as very good, as we found significant strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children.

### Quality indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities

The childminder's home was welcoming and very well presented. The house was well ventilated and heated, with lots of natural light with large patio doors leading to the garden. The areas used for childminding were clean and tidy, and appropriate risk assessments had been completed. The childminder discussed how they would review safety measures, for example, as the age of children attending changed according to their needs. The childminder was fully aware of their role and responsibilities to keep children safe, and to ensure their home had appropriate safety measures in place.

The minding areas, indoors and outdoors, were well resourced, allowing children to play and have fun learning new things. The childminder ensured daily that the materials available met the children's interests, such as, building bricks, role play and early numeracy and literacy materials. On the day of the inspection, we observed children having fun playing, pretending to make pasta, building structures, and matching colours. The children were engaged in their play and were relaxed and confident within the childminder's home.

The childminder followed good infection prevention and control practices to reduce the spread of infection, this included good hand hygiene and nappy changing procedures. The childminder's kitchen was kept clean, and they followed the food safety guidelines in line with the most up-to-date national guidance.

Parents told us they found the childminder's home to be safe, clean, and well resourced. They told us, "We have never had any issues with Margaret and the kids are always excited." Another said, "I couldn't ask for more from Margaret's house. It is a safe, comfortable and fun environment for my children."

Overall, the childminder made very good use of the space and materials available to them at home and in the local community.

## How good is our leadership?

**5 - Very Good**

We evaluated this key question as very good, as we found significant strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children.

### Quality indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The childminder engaged well with the inspection process. They were very welcoming, sourced records we requested, and answered questions we asked, to support the evaluation of the service.

The childminder kept records of the children's attendance. They understood and followed the service's conditions of registration, and the current registration certificate was made available to parents.

We discussed with the childminder, the information submitted within the annual return and self-assessment, notifications, and changes to the inspection process. We found the information provided by the service to be a true and accurate reflection of the service provided.

Since the last inspection, the childminder had continued to make improvements to the service to further enhance the outcomes for children. This included, further developing their skills and knowledge by keeping up to date with current thinking and best practice. Parents told us they were involved in a meaningful way to help develop the service. One parent told us, "Margaret always includes and involves us in discussions about her service and any upcoming opportunities." We could see the childminder was fully committed and provided high quality care and support. They worked extremely hard to provide the care and support, meeting the parents and children's expectations.

The childminder had attended training to keep themselves well informed about good practice guidance and changes within childcare. They had achieved this through reading information received from the Care Inspectorate and Scottish Childminding Association. They had attended training in first aid and child protection, however, it had been a few years since they attended child protection training. We suggested they may wish to attend a child protection course to ensure they are up to date with current thinking.

The childminder had strong links with other local childminder's, they shared good practice and worked together to enhance children's experiences. We found the childminder to be very well informed and to be well organised, providing a service that reflects the values and principles of a high quality child care service.

## How good is our staff team?

**5 - Very Good**

We evaluated this key question as very good, as we found significant strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children.

### Quality indicator 4.1: Staff skills, knowledge and values

The childminder was caring, compassionate, and loving towards the children and families using the service. They had created an environment where children's needs were very well supported and their interests followed.

The childminder knew each child extremely well and worked closely with parents to meet their needs and expectations. All parents told us they had formed strong bonds with the childminder. When asked, "What do you think are the most positive aspects of your child's experiences in the childminding service?" they told us, "Kids love going to the childminders and are eager and excited to get there in the morning." Another shared, "Children absolutely love attending Margaret's house and in fact usually do not want to come home! It is home from home for them and Margaret goes above and beyond to ensure they feel safe, loved and cared for."

When talking about children and families, the childminder did so with love, respect, and kindness. Therefore, we concluded they were fully committed to working in true partnership with families to meet their children's needs.

The wellbeing indicators and children's rights were embedded within the service, and you could see these were weaved within the childminder's professional values. The care, play, and learning provided quality care and support that was right for each child. The parents, when asked, "What would make the service better?" made no suggestions.

The childminder had plentiful years working with children. They had attended numerous training and development opportunities, and as a result were very well informed about child development and planning to support children needs.

When asked about the service, parents provided extremely positive feedback about the childminder. One parent shared, "Margaret is a qualified, kind and nurturing person and I am so lucky to be able to leave my children with her whilst I work. She puts my mind at ease, gives me updates through the day and creates the happiest environment for my children to be in." Parents also provided us with some feedback from the children, which included, "Whenever I'm sad she gives me a hug" and "Margaret is nice & kind. She makes the best dinners."

The childminder was passionate about providing the highest quality care and support to the children and families. They were an accomplished childminder, providing a truly nurturing and caring environment where children can play, thrive and have fun.

## 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?	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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