

McGill, Janet Child Minding

Prestwick

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
18 July 2025

Service provided by:
Janet McGill

Service provider number:
SP2003902923

Service no:
CS2003005079

About the service

Janet McGill provides a childminding service from her property in Prestwick , South Ayrshire. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of six children under the age of 12. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family. The service is close to local amenities, school and parks. The children are cared for in the childminder's living room, kitchen and have access to the family bathroom. There is an enclosed back garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 17 and 18 July 2025 between 10:30 and 15:00. We gave feedback to the service face to face on 18 July 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, information submitted by the service, and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- Observed and spoke with children using the service .
- Sent out a family questionnaire and received six responses .
- Spoke with the childminder .
- Observed practice and daily life .
- Reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children experienced warm, nurturing care that supported their wellbeing and development.
- The childminder knew each child well and responded sensitively to their individual needs and interests.
- The setting was safe, welcoming, and well maintained, with effective infection prevention measures in place.
- The childminder was reflective and committed to continuous improvement, using training and feedback to enhance her service.
- Families were meaningfully involved in shaping the service through regular communication and consultation.

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

Key Question 1.1: Nurturing care and support

We found significant strengths in how the childminder supported children's wellbeing through nurturing, respectful, and responsive care. As a result, we evaluated this key question as very good.

Children experienced warm, compassionate care that promoted their emotional security and development. The childminder knew each child well and responded sensitively to their individual needs, interests, and routines. Interactions were consistently kind and respectful, helping children feel valued and listened to. One parent told us, "They love the fun things they get to do with Janet... they get to develop independent experiences."

Personal care was carried out with dignity and privacy. The childminder used appropriate PPE and supported children with gentle explanations and distraction techniques, helping them feel safe and respected.

Mealtimes were sociable and relaxed. Although children brought their own lunches, the childminder was registered as a food business and had appropriate systems in place for managing allergies. Water was available throughout the day, and children were included in snack choices. A parent commented, "My child loves the snacks Janet provides... they're involved in choosing them."

Sleep routines were well managed. The childminder followed parents' preferences and provided comfort items to help children settle. Although verbal agreements were in place, we advised that written consent should be obtained in line with safer sleep guidance.

While formal personal plans were not yet in place, the childminder had a range of written and informal records that, taken together, reflected children's needs and preferences. We discussed the importance of developing personal plans in line with current regulations to support ongoing care and learning.

The childminder demonstrated a strong understanding of her role in safeguarding children and was proactive in supporting families, including escorting children to school when needed.

Parents were welcomed into the setting and kept informed through daily discussions, diaries, and regular surveys. One parent shared, "Janet shares her plans and there are ample opportunities to comment."

Key Question 1.3: Play and learning

We found significant strengths in how the childminder supported children's play and learning through responsive, engaging, and well-planned experiences. Therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

Children experienced a rich and stimulating environment that promoted curiosity, creativity, and enjoyment. The childminder provided a wide range of age-appropriate resources both indoors and outdoors, supporting children's development through spontaneous and planned play. Photographs showed older children building complex structures, while younger children explored colours and numbers through books, puzzles, and chalk play.

The environment was rich in language, literacy, and numeracy. The childminder used repetition and restatement to support early language development and encouraged counting and colour recognition through everyday activities. One parent told us, "Janet is a kind and caring childminder who supports children at all stages of their learning and understanding."

Children's interests were central to planning. The childminder responded to individual preferences and adapted activities accordingly. For example, children chose their after-school snacks from a menu, and alternatives were provided to accommodate food aversions. A parent shared, "When my daughter had some food aversions, Janet made sure there were substitutes to accommodate her needs."

The childminder made very good use of the local community to enhance learning. Children regularly visited parks, beaches, and shops, and older children were supported to walk to school independently with appropriate safety measures in place.

Interactions were warm and skilled. The childminder engaged at the child's level, using eye contact, smiles, and gentle questioning to extend learning. Observations of children's progress were recorded in diaries, and while not formally structured, next steps were identified and celebrated.

Children were empowered to lead their play and learning, and their achievements were recognised. One parent commented, "Janet has a lovely outdoor area... my child's favourite are the swings."

How good is our setting?

5 - Very Good

Key Question 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities

We found significant strengths in how the environment supported children's safety, comfort, and development. Therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

The childminder's home was warm, welcoming, and well maintained. Despite ongoing kitchen redecoration, the space remained clean, tidy, and well ventilated. Children had direct access to a secure garden, which was well equipped with age-appropriate resources that encouraged outdoor play and exploration. One parent told us, "My child's point of view is playing games! I feel that my child is safe, happy and is being included in a true home from home."

Indoor and outdoor spaces were thoughtfully arranged to support children's learning and independence. Risky play was encouraged in a safe and considered way, with risk assessments in place for equipment such as slides. Children were observed enjoying chalk play and other creative activities outdoors.

Safety and infection prevention were well managed. The childminder used PPE appropriately, supported handwashing, and cleaned surfaces between activities. We encouraged continued promotion of handwashing for 20 seconds to reinforce good hygiene habits.

Children's information was stored securely. Paperwork was locked away when not in use, and the childminder was advised to seek written consent for the use of video doorbell technology to ensure transparency and data protection.

The childminder demonstrated a strong commitment to maintaining a safe and nurturing environment. Equipment such as the boiler and car were regularly checked and maintained, although the car was rarely used as the childminder preferred walking with the children.

Parents valued the quality of the setting. One shared, "Janet always makes sure to make me aware of the toys or games that my daughter loves playing with... Janet treats each child as an individual and respects each of their learning abilities."

How good is our leadership?

5 - Very Good

Key Question 3.1: Quality assurance and improvement are led well

We found significant strengths in how the childminder reflected on and improved her service. Therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

The childminder demonstrated a clear vision and values that shaped her daily practice. Her aim to provide a happy, healthy, and safe environment was evident in the nurturing relationships and well-organised routines observed. She was committed to supporting children's learning and development through age-appropriate resources and experiences.

Although there was no formal written improvement plan, the childminder regularly reflected on her practice and made meaningful changes. For example, she adapted resources to meet children's individual needs and accessed training to enhance her knowledge. This included safeguarding and schematic play, which had a positive impact on how she supported children's development.

Children and families were meaningfully involved in shaping the service. The childminder used surveys, daily discussions, and informal feedback to gather views. She acted on suggestions, such as supporting a child to learn their times tables or adjusting snack options to suit dietary needs. One parent told us, "Janet always takes on board any changes we have implemented and provides paperwork when needing updated."

Self-evaluation was ongoing and informed by national guidance. The childminder used resources from the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and discussed new guidance with peers to reflect on and improve her service. This supported continuous development and ensured her practice remained current and responsive.

The childminder was aware of her responsibilities around notifications and complaints, and although no complaints had been received, she had systems in place to respond appropriately if needed.

Overall, the childminder's approach to quality assurance was thoughtful and child-centred. Her commitment to improvement ensured children and families experienced a high-quality, responsive service.

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

Key Question 4.1: Staff skills, knowledge and values

We found significant strengths in the childminder's skills, knowledge, and values, which supported high-quality care and positive outcomes for children. Therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

The childminder demonstrated warmth, compassion, and a deep understanding of the children in her care. She responded sensitively to their needs and used her knowledge of child development to provide nurturing and age-appropriate support. One parent told us, "My daughter is well cared for... she always wants to share good news with Janet, like when the tooth fairy comes."

Strong, trusting relationships were evident. The childminder recognised when children needed reassurance and used distraction and comfort techniques effectively. Her interactions were consistently kind and respectful, helping children feel safe, valued, and confident.

The childminder was reflective and committed to continuous improvement. She kept up to date with best practice through professional reading, discussions with peers, and membership of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA). She had recently completed an HNC in Childcare, which had positively influenced her practice.

Training was used meaningfully to improve outcomes. For example, safeguarding training had led to the introduction of chronologies where appropriate, and an increased awareness of schematic play supported more tailored learning experiences.

The childminder was well organised and demonstrated a strong understanding of national guidance. She regularly reviewed her practice and sought feedback from families to ensure her service remained responsive and inclusive.

The childminder's husband, David was named on the registration certificate. She saw that he has been kept up to date with local and national best practice guideline by the childminder to ensure his skills and knowledge was current.

Parents spoke highly of the childminder's impact on their children and family life. One parent shared, "The care and support my daughter receives makes her feel like she has a granny... Janet has been such a great support system for me as well."

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

The childminder should further develop minded children's personal plans to ensure that they reflect the current legislation.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I am fully involved in developing and reviewing my personal plan, which is always available to me' (HSCS 2.17).

This area for improvement was made on 14 May 2019.

Action taken since then

Although no formal personal plan had been made, all information was held and reviewed. We discussed how this be collated going forward. See the most recent inspection report

This area for improvement has been met.

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

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.