

Gordon, Laura Child Minding

Prestwick

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
4 July 2025

Service provided by:
Laura Gordon

Service provider number:
SP2005948600

Service no:
CS2005100552

About the service

Laura Gordon 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 3 and 4 July 2025 between 10:30 and 15:00. We gave feedback to the service virtually on 4 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 one response.
- Spoke with the childminder.
- Observed practice and daily life.
- Reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children experienced nurturing, compassionate care that supported their emotional wellbeing and helped them feel safe and valued.
- Personal care routines were respectful and consistent, promoting children's independence and dignity.
- Mealtimes and sleep routines were well-managed and responsive to individual needs, contributing to a calm and supportive environment.
- Families felt well-informed and involved in their child's care through regular communication and shared decision-making.
- The childminder demonstrated a clear understanding of safeguarding responsibilities and was committed to continuous improvement.

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

Quality Indicator 1.1 - Nurturing Care and Support

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

Children experienced warm, nurturing relationships that promoted their emotional wellbeing. The childminder demonstrated a strong understanding of nurture principles and responded to children with compassion and insight. As a result, children felt safe, secure, and valued in her care.

Personal care was delivered with dignity and respect. Children were encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times, promoting independence and good hygiene. These routines were followed consistently and supported children's understanding of healthy habits.

Mealtimes were sociable and inclusive. Although meals were provided by parents, the childminder created a positive environment where children sat together and younger children were supported to join in. We reminded the childminder of the value of sitting with children during meals to further support social development.

Children's sleep routines were tailored to their individual needs. The childminder worked closely with parents to ensure children could rest comfortably and safely. We advised recording parental preferences in writing to support informed choices and continuity of care.

Personal plans were in place and reviewed regularly. While routines were agreed verbally, plans would benefit from clearer annotations to reflect children's progress and development. Families valued the open communication, with one parent commenting, "Laura keeps us informed with everything, there is a clear line of communication."

Although no medication was required during the inspection, appropriate policies and paperwork were in place. The childminder understood her responsibilities in safeguarding and child protection. While no external agencies were involved, links were being developed through parents to support continuity of care.

Families were actively involved in the service. Daily discussions and regular sharing of photographs helped keep parents informed. Parent surveys had been issued, and the childminder was encouraged to record feedback and use it to support personal planning and service improvement.

Quality Indicator 1.3 - Play and Learning

Children experienced fun, engaging play that supported their learning and development. The childminder created a warm, inclusive atmosphere where children felt confident, involved, and valued.

Children were happy and actively engaged with a variety of toys and activities. Their interests were recognised and supported through a balance of planned and spontaneous play. The childminder was keen to introduce more open-ended and loose parts materials to further encourage creativity and curiosity.

Language and numeracy were naturally embedded in play. The childminder interacted at children's level, encouraging conversation and exploration. One child was supported to match colours with toy cars, helping to extend vocabulary and understanding.

Children's individual preferences were considered, and resources were tailored to their interests. One parent told us, "Laura always provides a wide variety of options for the children."

The childminder made good use of the local community. Children benefited from regular visits to parks, toddler groups, the library, and the beach. These experiences supported social development and broadened children's learning. The childminder also played an active role in the local childminder network, including organising first aid training for peers.

Interactions were warm and responsive. While questioning tended to focus on factual answers, we encouraged the childminder to use more open-ended questions to deepen children's thinking and learning.

Observations of children's progress were informal but insightful. The childminder knew each child well and understood how planning and tracking could enhance experiences. She showed a positive attitude and willingness to develop this further.

One parent commented, "My child feels safe and has a trusting relationship with Laura. Laura is always very observant."

How good is our setting?

4 - Good

Quality Indicator 2.2 - Children Experience High Quality Facilities

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

Children experienced care in a warm, clean, and welcoming environment. The setting was well ventilated and homely, helping children feel relaxed and comfortable. The family dog was kept separate from the childminding area, supporting safety and hygiene.

The outdoor space was spacious, fully enclosed, and well equipped with a variety of resources and covered areas. Although not used during the inspection due to poor weather, it offered valuable opportunities for active and energetic play. Indoors, the layout allowed the childminder to engage with children across different activities. We encouraged the childminder to further enrich indoor resources to offer greater challenge and stimulation.

The environment was safe and well maintained. Children were supported to tidy up and could request additional resources stored securely. We advised the childminder to ensure children were aware of all available materials to promote independence and choice.

Risk assessments were in place and regularly reviewed. The childminder demonstrated good awareness of dynamic risk assessment when out in the community.

Infection prevention and control measures were effective. Children were encouraged to wash their hands, PPE was used appropriately, and cleaning routines were followed. Cleaning products were stored safely and out of children's reach.

Children's personal information was stored securely. Electronic devices were password protected, and paper records were kept in a locked cupboard. This ensured confidentiality and compliance with data protection standards.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

Quality Indicator 3.1 - Quality Assurance and Improvement Are Led Well

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

The childminder demonstrated a clear commitment to improvement and had taken some steps to monitor and develop the service. Some quality assurance paperwork had been started, showing a willingness to reflect on practice. We encouraged the childminder to ensure monitoring and evaluation records are kept up to date and used meaningfully to support continuous improvement.

There was a clear aim for the service, and the childminder was reflective in her approach. However, families and children had not recently been involved in shaping the service's vision and values. The childminder was open to developing this further to ensure shared ownership and direction.

Families were involved through daily discussions and surveys. One parent told us, "Laura always asks for feedback." We encouraged the childminder to use this feedback more effectively to inform planning and service development.

Self-evaluation and improvement planning had been undertaken in the past but required updating to reflect the current service. The childminder recognised this and was motivated to take action.

The childminder was aware of her responsibility to notify the Care Inspectorate of significant changes. Although no notifications had been required, the annual return had been submitted. A reminder was given to update changes to household details through the registration portal to support transparency and safeguarding. The childminder updated the household members prior to this report being written.

Overall, the childminder showed a positive attitude toward improvement and was open to feedback. With further development of formal quality assurance processes and greater involvement of families in shaping the service, the childminder was well placed to continue improving outcomes for children.

How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

Quality Indicator 4.1 - Staff Skills, Knowledge and Values

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

The childminder demonstrated strong values and a caring approach, creating a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment. Relationships with children and families were warm, respectful, and built on trust. Children responded positively to the childminder's kind and attentive manner, which supported their emotional wellbeing.

The childminder's values were evident in daily practice. While the service had a clear aim, there was scope to personalise this further to reflect the unique character of the setting and the childminder's approach.

Reflective practice took place informally. The childminder was encouraged to record reflections to show how learning and feedback informed improvements. This would support continuous development and help demonstrate the impact of changes made.

Training in child protection and first aid was up to date. The childminder had a good understanding of relevant guidance and was committed to ongoing learning. She was encouraged to continue accessing resources from the Care Inspectorate Hub and Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) to further enhance her knowledge and tailor learning to the specific needs of her service.

Improvements were made informally, and the childminder was open to developing a more structured approach to recording and evidencing these. This would help track progress and support quality assurance.

The childminder held an HNC qualification and had taken steps to maintain her skills through training and professional reading. Her proactive attitude and willingness to learn contributed positively to the quality of care provided.

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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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
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