

# Warwick, Ruth Child Minding

Irvine

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
10 July 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Ruth Warwick

**Service provider number:**  
SP2007965048

**Service no:**  
CS2007150725

## About the service

Ruth Warwick provides a childminding service from their home in Irvine, North Ayrshire. Children have access to the childminder's lounge, upstairs bathroom, kitchen and secure back garden. The service is located close to local early learning and childcare settings, schools, community green spaces and local parks.

Ruth Warwick is registered to provide a service to a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers include the children of the childminder's family. At the time of our inspection, 15 children were registered with the service.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Tuesday 8 July 2025 between 11:45 and 14:00. 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 children using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- issues a questionnaire to families using the service and received seven responses
- observed practice and daily life for three children attending the service
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- The childminder was kind and caring, and they provided children with reassurance to help them feel secure and happy.
- Close working relationships with the families allowed for open communication and effective information sharing.
- Children were able to lead their play independently and were confident moving around the childminder's home and garden.
- The childminder should develop effective self-evaluation and quality assurance processes.
- Further training and development opportunities should be undertaken to support the delivery of high-quality care, play and learning for children.

## 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?	3 - Adequate
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 this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

### Quality indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support

Children were engaged and settled during our visit. The childminder was kind and caring towards children and positive, trusting relationships had been formed. This supported children's sense of belonging. All families who responded to our questionnaire strongly agreed that they had a good relationship with their childminder. Comments made included; "I have a really good relationship with my childminder she always helps the best she can. She is always there for everyone" and "My child is thriving at the childminders, they have a great relationship with Ruth and have made bonds with the other children."

Children's progress was mainly captured through photographs and shared with parents using digital application, 'Whatsapp'. This enabled families to feel included in their child's care. Parents spoke positively about the communication methods used by the childminder. Comments made included; "Ruth goes out of her way to keep me informed about what my child has been doing and my child absolutely loves going with her" and "Ruth always tells us all about what the children have been up to that day and shares photos of this with us, which I like."

The childminder knew the children in their care well. Relevant information such as individual likes and dislikes had been gathered at enrolment and this information informed children's individual personal plans. The childminder had identified developmental targets they wanted to support children with. We discussed that plans should include more detailed strategies of how they planned to offer support. The plans that we sampled had been reviewed appropriately. All parents strongly agreed they were involved in developing and reviewing their child's plan. One parent told us, "I have always had the opportunity to influence and input into my child's developmental plan." This meant that children received care and support that met their individual needs and preferences.

Children enjoyed home cooked meals and snacks provided by the childminder. This meant children ate foods they enjoyed and which met their nutritional needs. One parent told us, "My child always has a well balanced diet when in Ruth's care." We asked the childminder to share the allergens contained within the foods provided with families as this ensures all parents are fully informed of the foods their child receives.

Children's health was supported through the childminder's awareness and understanding of medical needs. Through discussion, the childminder demonstrated sound knowledge of each child's health and medical needs. Prior to our inspection the childminder had identified that medical permissions did not gather sufficient information and had taken steps to source new permission forms. We encouraged the childminder to continue with their plans to update their medication forms as this would ensure written records were fully reflective of children's medical needs. In addition, we discussed with the childminder that having a general supply of paracetamol for children was not in line with current guidance.

### Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children were happy and having fun as they played. It was clear they had developed friendships. They

laughed and smiled as they interacted with each other and the childminder. Any play related behaviours were addressed effectively by the childminder in an inclusive manner. For example, when children requested access to the television the childminder skilfully redirected them to suitable, engaging play experiences. This supported co-operative play and assisted children to learn how to manage their expectations and emotions.

The childminder mostly followed an informal spontaneous planning approach where verbal choices were given to children about their play and during school holidays they were given questionnaires to record their preferred creative and outdoor experiences. It was clear that the childminder offered these experiences in response to children's requests. For example children had requested to visit the local park and on the day of our inspection this was provided. This supported children's sense of ownership of their time.

Literacy and numeracy development was supported through natural interactions, such as counting and using mathematical concepts when describing items during imaginative play. The childminder engaged children in developmentally appropriate conversations to support their language development. The childminder's approach supported children's developmental progress, enabling them to reach their potential. Parents felt informed of their child's learning and development with one parent commenting, "Ruth always informs me of any new skills they are working on and how they are going."

## 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 spent their time playing and exploring resources within the childminder's living room, where there was ample floor space to explore and sofas to relax on. The environment was well ventilated and clean contributing to children's comfort. Children's art work was on display which added to the welcoming ethos and supported their sense of belonging. All parents strongly agreed that their child was cared for in a safe, secure and well-maintained environment. One parent commented; "My child feels very comfortable and safe when at Ruth's."

Children benefitted from regular outings to parks, play group and the local library, supporting their social development and connection to the wider community. When we asked parents what they liked about the service comments included; "My child has enjoyed lots of different days out and activities, they really enjoyed ranger days at Eglinton park, toddler classes and meeting up with other childminders and their children to enjoy days out for picnics and activities." The childminder's commitment to attending community activities enhanced children's play and learning experiences.

Children were effectively encouraged and supported to wash their hands at appropriate times with soap and water. For example; before and after meal times. We discussed with the childminder the importance of applying personal protective equipment (PPE) such as an apron when supporting children's personal care. This will ensure that the likelihood of any infection spreading was minimised.

The childminder had two pet dogs that had contact with minded children. At the time of our inspection there were 4 dogs present, the childminder's own dogs and two additional dogs who belonged to their family and friends. We met the dogs during inspection and found them to be calm and friendly. The childminder had developed a pet policy taking into consideration some aspects of children's safety. To

ensure children can continue to be provided with opportunities to learn key life skills involved in caring for animals, parental permission should be sought for all children attending the service. This will ensure children's safety.

The childminder stored families personal information appropriately, following best practice guidelines to protect their privacy. Their registration with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) demonstrated a commitment to responsible and secure data handling. We asked the childminder to develop a privacy statement which they did prior to the publication of this inspection report. They should now share this with families to ensure they are fully informed of how their personal information was maintained in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

## How good is our leadership?

## 3 - Adequate

We evaluated this key question as adequate, where strengths only just outweighed weaknesses.

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

The childminder had created a happy and welcoming ethos in the service, which promoted a positive atmosphere for children to play and learn. They engaged well with the inspection process and were responsive to our suggestions for further development. Where we made suggestions for improvements, action was taken prior to the publication of this inspection report, demonstrating the childminder's commitment to improving experiences for children.

The childminder had a range of policies and procedures in place, supporting them to provide a reliable service. Whilst recorded dates suggested that the childminder had recently updated these, we advised some policies and procedures should be expanded to reflect current legislation and best practice guidance. For example, we identified gaps within the child protection and complaints policies. Updating policies and revisiting current best practice would support service delivery and enable positive outcomes for all children.

Families were able to give some feedback on the service received through daily discussions and some use of children's activity questionnaires. The childminder's certificate of registration was displayed for parents to view during minding hours, and they were provided with copies of policies and procedures when registering with the service. This provided parents with opportunities to comment on service delivery and influence improvements.

The majority of parents commented that they do not enter the childminder's home at drop off and collection times. Families should be warmly welcomed in to the childminder's home to strengthen the continuity of care for children.

The service was in the very early stages of developing their approach to quality assurance and self-evaluation. When we visited there were no formal systems in place to gather and record the views of parents or to meaningfully evaluate the service. The childminder told us they planned to re-establish a process for issuing regular questionnaires to parents. We have asked that self-evaluation processes are improved to enable the childminder to identify what is working well and areas that could be further developed. This should support a culture of continuous improvement to secure positive outcomes for children (area for improvement 1). We discussed the benefits of using quality audit tools, such as Care Inspectorate (2022) 'A quality framework for day-care of children, childminding and school-aged childcare' to support this process.

## Areas for improvement

1. To support positive outcomes for children and families, the childminder should strengthen how they reflect on the quality of their service. This should include regularly asking children and families for feedback, keeping a record of what is working well and what could be improved, and using this to inform and make positive changes.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), which state: "I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes" (HSCS 4.19)

## 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

Children experienced positive relationships with the childminder who demonstrated a warm, kind and compassionate approach. They had an enabling attitude that supported children to achieve their potential through positive interactions and experiences. Families who responded to our questionnaire strongly agreed they were happy with the care and support their child received in this service. Comments made included; "Ruth had been great for helping my child with their confidence," "My childminder is the best" and "She is amazing and always has a heart of gold and has a lot of time for everyone she looks after."

The childminder was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and had built relationships with other local childminders. This provided opportunities to help them reflect on best practice and build on information sharing to support service improvements.

The childminder had accessed and refreshed their training in first aid. This contributed to children's continued health and wellbeing. Some efforts to access additional development opportunities had been undertaken, however, records of these were not maintained which meant it was not clear where the childminder's learning was impacting positively on outcomes for children. To ensure children experience a service that is based on current best practice, the childminder should continue to develop their skills and knowledge through attending training, webinars or undertaking self-directed learning relevant to their role. At the time of our inspection the childminder had not completed child protection or safeguarding training. Prior to the completion of this inspection report, we received confirmation that this had been completed.

When we asked families what could make going to their childminding service even better, most families made no suggestions, and one family commented; "Nothing as my childminder is perfect."

## 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?	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?	3 - Adequate
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	3 - Adequate
How good is our staff team?	4 - Good
4.3 Staff deployment	4 - Good



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