

Little Paddock Childminding Child Minding

Johnstone

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
17 July 2025

Service provided by:
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Service provider number:
SP2019013263

Service no:
CS2019372866

About the service

Little Paddock Childminding is registered to provide a childminding service from their property in a residential area in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire. When both childminders are working together the service may provide care to a maximum of 12 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than 6 children are not attending primary school and of whom no more than 2 are under 12 months. When a childminder is working alone they may provide care to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. On the day of inspection six children were present.

The service is close to local primary schools, shops, parks, and other amenities and children are cared for in a dedicated playroom with toilet and changing space. A large open plan dining kitchen. Children can access bedrooms within the property for sensitive sleep spaces. Children accessed a large, enclosed outdoor garden in the property.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 15 July 2025. Feedback was delivered on 17 July 2025. The inspection was carried out by two inspectors 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 six children using the service
- Gathered feedback from nine families through online questionnaires
- Spoke with both childminder
- Observed practice and daily life
- 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 childminders showed warmth, kindness, and compassion in their interactions with the children. This nurturing approach has led to strong attachments and supports the children's overall wellbeing.
- The childminders complement one another, which has created a loving, warm and respectful atmosphere.
- The childminder's home was inviting and created a safe and secure space for children to play and have fun. Children had excellent access to a wide range of play opportunities both indoors and outdoors.
- The childminders have developed strong relationships with families, which has led to trust, open communication, and supportive partnerships.
- The childminders are proactive and show a clear awareness of their next steps. They make effective use of best practice documents, which supports continuous improvements and informed decision making.

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?	6 - Excellent
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

1.1 Nurturing care and support

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

During the inspection there were six minded children present. It was evident they had formed positive relationships with the childminders who were kind, caring and compassionate in their interactions. This helped children feel welcomed and loved in the setting. Children experienced warm, patient, and nurturing care from the childminders who provided lots of cuddles, praise, and reassurance. This supported children to feel safe and secure. One parent told us "We have a fantastic relationship with the childminders, and they are fantastic with our children."

Children were supported to be respectful of each other, the toys they played with and the family pets. The childminders promoted positive behaviour by role modelling soft tones, kind words and friendly engagement with the children and each other. This supported children's overall wellbeing. One parent told us what they liked about the service was "The personal nature and care provided by the childminders."

Children experienced mealtimes that were relaxed, unhurried and sociable. The childminders recognised mealtimes as a rich opportunity to promote close attachments and establish healthy eating habits. Both childminders sat with children at the table to eat and discuss their day. The childminding service was registered as a food business and provided children with healthy, nutritious homecooked meals. One child told us they "like the soup." The childminder was extremely well informed of children's nutrition and best practice guidance, and as a result, provided healthy foods, with an occasional homemade treat. Children told us they baked their own birthday cake with the childminder each year and excitedly told us of their plans for decorating their cake later that week.

Children were cared for by childminders who knew them and their families well. Children attending the service had personal plans in place that were up to date and reviewed regularly. This ensured children's current health, wellbeing and developmental needs were supported effectively by the childminders. We discussed how personal plans could be further enhanced by recording ongoing achievements and updating next steps with input from families.

Children's health was promoted by childminders who understood their role in supporting individual medical needs. Both childminders were trained in first aid should children require medical assistance. We reviewed the policy, procedures, and documents available and were satisfied with the storage and administration of medication. We sampled a health plan for one of the children in attendance and found it provided a clear action plan on what to do if the child required their emergency medication.

Children's personal care needs were met sensitively by the childminders who demonstrated sound knowledge of safe nappy changing practice. The childminder had appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and changing station available if required.

Children's safety, emotional security and wellbeing was promoted by sensitive sleep routines that were responsive to their individual needs and in line with family preferences. The childminders were aware of safe sleep guidance and discussed this with families when completing personal plans.

Children were settled to sleep in their own cots with comforters provided from home. Temperature checks and monitoring of children whilst sleep was well established.

1.3 Play and learning

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

Children were meaningfully and actively involved in leading their play and learning through a balance of spontaneous and planned experiences. Children were engaged and having fun during our inspection. We observed children play on an indoor gym, a soft play area, making a den and engage in imaginative play using an ice cream cart. The sound of children's laughter featured throughout the day, showing us that they were confident, happy, safe, and having enjoyed their time at the childminders. One parent told us "There is lots of activities from the loft playroom to sensory play in the garden. Painting, making crafts and learning to cook, lots going on."

Children accessed a range of stimulating learning opportunities outdoors. On the day of inspection children had fun running, climbing, and swinging on the play equipment in the garden. Some children engaged in explorative play at the mud kitchen with mud and water. Filling a jug of water from the outdoor tap available. Children also engaged in planting vegetables and harvesting fruit from trees. Through these experiences the childminders were promoting a sense of independence, and early development of children learning to care for their environment. One parent told us "My children have experienced a variety of experiences in the garden through growing fruit and helping to collect, to playing with water, sand, and other items available."

The childminders and children made use of community spaces, for example, they explore neighbouring gardens that feature an orchard, beehives, and horse stables. Children recently collected the fruits and made stewed apples and pears. Children also enjoyed using an apple press to make their own homemade fruit juice. These opportunities enabled children to understand local produce and where it comes from, promoting awareness of healthy eating and sustainability.

The routine of the day was well balanced allowing opportunities for both structured and free flow play and learning. Children confidently and independently led their play by making their own choices about where to play and what experiences they wanted to take part in. The childminders skilfully interacted with children; supporting and enriching their play, as well as knowing when to step back and allow the children to build on their own ideas. The childminders made effective use of questioning during their interactions. This led to children having opportunities to develop their creativity, inquiry, and curiosity.

The childminders ensured the children had access to literacy and numeracy experiences; the children were happy to tell us that they were learning about the letters in their name. We saw the childminder reading stories to the children, which encouraged language development and a love for reading. The children had access to a wide range of books, jigsaws, and games indoors. One parent told us "They have a variety of different activities on offer that helps engage our children's learning along with developing their social and emotional skills."

The childminders cater to the children's age and stage of development. Photographs were accessible to children and families using WhatsApp. Families told us about the activities their children enjoyed and valued regular updates about their children's progress. Although informal, planning was child-centred and very responsive to children's interests and experiences.

We discussed how the planning process could be enhanced by recording the cycle the childminders were naturally undertaking each day through discussions and reflections. Overall, outcomes for children were clearly positive, with progress acknowledged by both childminders and the children's families.

How good is our setting?

6 - Excellent

2.2 Children experience high quality facilities.

We evaluated this key question as **excellent** where performance was sector leading with outstandingly high outcomes for children.

Children were cared for in an exceptional environment that was clean, bright, and homely. We found the spaces were well-designed providing a safe, stimulating layout to meet the varying needs of the children attending. The environment enabled children to learn key skills through play and having fun. One parent told us "I have always felt that the premises were safe and secure, and the home is of a high standard."

The indoor and outdoor environment was carefully and considerably set up to support the children to engage in rich stimulating and challenging play and learning experiences. The childminders demonstrated they continually reviewed the environment, considering the individual needs of parents, children, and their safety. The childminders had reviewed their safety measures and upgraded their gate and entry to the property after consultation with families. The childminder had also introduced a self-closing gate to the garden to ensure children remained safe at drop off and pick up times.

Children's interest, wishes and ideas helped shape the developments to the environment. For example an area for den building was created to enable older children to engage in problem solving, construction and wood work at a level that was interesting and challenging for them. The childminders supported the children to create an outdoor den using tools, wood, branches, and trees. Children then made the choice to deconstruct the den then rebuild a new one when they wanted to. This showed us children could make choices and meaningfully influence their environment.

Children benefitted from high quality play opportunities created by the innovative spaces available both indoors and outdoors. Outdoor play was encouraged in the large garden through a mud kitchen, house, cars and trucks, large play equipment with swings, slides and climbing frame. Children told us "I love the swings, and I love jumping on the trampoline." Loose parts play was available with large tyres, piping, blocks, and bricks. Children were excited to show us their gardening shed and planting beds where they were growing tomatoes and pumpkins. One parent told us "My children have thrived playing and learning outdoors."

An outdoor shelter in the garden provided a comfortable space for children to play away from the elements but still benefit from fresh air, which supported their health and wellbeing. An outdoor toilet and sink had been installed which meant children could meet their basic needs without interrupting their play by having to go back indoors. One parent told us "Little Paddock have a wonderful garden space; it is diverse in what it offers the children."

Toys and resource were set up to meet the needs and interests of children attending. Children could lead their play as they could easily access toys and equipment. The childminder had created a homemade sensory wall for children to explore at their level. Natural, open-ended materials were available to stimulate children's curiosity and extended their play. One parent told us "My child has the opportunity to play with a wide range of toys both inside and outside." Children had individuals' tubs to store their personal belongings which further support their independence and ownership of the space.

Children's health and wellbeing was supported by childminders who understood their role in promoting good infection prevention and control practices. The spaces utilised were clean and well organised. One parent told us "The house inside is always clean, tidy and in very good condition." Good hand hygiene was encouraged with children and role modelled by the childminders washing their hands at appropriate times. The childminders were aware of exclusion periods for children when illnesses occurred. This reduced the potential risk of spreading infections and protected children's health.

The childminders had risk assessments and fire safety assessments in place for the environment, outings, travelling in the car and dogs in the property. The childminders discussed safety with the children, and we saw in they took a risk benefit approach which allowed children to meet challenges and learn to manage risk in daily life when climbing and playing together.

We sampled accident and incident records and found these were in line with current good practice guidance. The childminders were aware of their responsibility to notify the Care Inspectorate of any serious accidents or incidents.

Children information was securely stored. The childminders were registered with the Information Commissioner Office (ICO) and understood their role in keeping information secure in line with General Data Protection Regulations.

How good is our leadership?

5 – Very Good

3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well.

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

The childminders were committed to providing a high-quality service to children and families. They engaged very well with the inspection process. They were open and responsive to our ideas and suggestions for development. This showed us the service had a very good capacity for change. One parent told us "The childminders are very open to any suggestions or ideas we may have." We found the childminders were very reflective on their practice and service which supported culture of continuous self-evaluation and improvement.

The childminders had a clear vision for their service. Aims and objectives were outlined in a welcome information pack for parents and carers. We found these values were consistent with what we observed in practice during our inspection. We observed happy, relaxed children who experience positive care, play and learning experiences from the childminders. This helped contribute to positive outcomes for children and their families.

Children were the heart of any changes made by the service. The childminders maintain high standards, and the environment and experiences offered to foster the children's ability to reach their full potential. We found recent improvements to the environment had been made in collaboration with families. The childminder asked the views of parents before installing the outdoor toilet and the new security gate. The showed us parents could meaningfully influence the development of the service.

The childminders had strong relationships with the minded children's families. The childminders encouraged and welcomed informal feedback daily through face-to-face discussions, WhatsApp discussions and emails.

One parent told us "We receive updates throughout the day and a full report at the end of each day." The childminder told us they had tried to introduce a paper questionnaire but found the responses were low. They are now considering an online platform to formally gather paperwork and feedback from families on a regular basis.

How good is our staff team?

5 - Very Good

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

The childminders showed warmth, kindness, and compassion in their interactions with the children. They engaged gently and sensitively, offering cuddles, encouragement, and meaningful interactions. This nurturing approach led to strong attachments and supported the children to thrive. One parent told us "Our child feels the service is like visiting friends or family and has a close relationship".

The childminders worked very well together, effective teamworking was clear during the inspection. The childminders communicated with each other in relation to children's routines, play and wellbeing needs. They complemented one another, which created a loving, warm and respectful atmosphere. Children's needs were being fully supported, and their interests were embedded into the service's daily routine and experiences. One parent told us "I think every aspect of my children's experiences have been positive they are thriving attending our childminders and so has their emotional and social wellbeing. The communication and relationships they have with my children are fantastic."

The childminders showed both knowledge and skill in their practice. They engaged with the children at their level, actively taking part in conversations and effectively supporting language development through thoughtful and well-timed questioning. It was clear that their skills inform every aspect of their interactions and activities, creating a rich and supportive learning environment.

The childminders showed a reflective approach during the inspection and shared their plans for future training opportunities. The recent completion of the SVQ had equipped them with new knowledge, which they are actively incorporating into their practice. They had a clear understanding of how children develop and learn and their role in supporting this. The childminders made very good use of professional development opportunities; this was shown through recent training on first aid and infection prevention control. The childminders had awareness of good practice documents and had access to resources on the SCMA website and Care Inspectorate provider updates.

The childminders consistently reflected and adapted their practice in line with current best practice guidance. For example, recent changes to the children's menus were implemented after the childminders reviewed 'Setting the Table.' In addition, adjustments were made to sleep routines following safe sleep guidance. These examples showed their ability to embrace change and improve practice.

Children's wellbeing was protected as both childminders were aware of their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding. They had recently attended child protection training which meant they knew how to address any concerns appropriately.

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 childminders should further develop personal plans for all children registered to attend their service. Personal plans should identify how the childminder plans to meet children's health, welfare and safety needs whilst in their care and personal plans should be reviewed with children and parents at least every six months or sooner where required.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that; "My personal plan is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices" (HSCS 1.15)

This area for improvement was made on 21 February 2022.

Action taken since then

Personal plan templates had been developed, and we found they now identified children's health, welfare and safety needs. Plans were now frequently updated when there were changes in the needs of individuals such as toileting, feeding, sleep routines and household changes.

Previous area for improvement 2

In order to keep up to date with developments in early learning childcare practice, the childminders should identify and attend suitable training opportunities or undertake appropriate self-directed study. The childminders should prioritise child protection training and source guidance and literature on GIRFEC and child development.

This is to ensure the service complies with the Health and Social Care Standards which states; "I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice" (HSCS 4.11)

This area for improvement was made on 21 February 2022.

Action taken since then

The childminders had completed recently completed training in child protection, first aid and food hygiene. Both childminders had achieved a level 7 SVQ qualifications which support their understanding of child development, theories and practice related to the childcare sector, including GIRFEC.

Previous area for improvement 3

To ensure the childminding service complies with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the childminders should register their service with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) and develop a privacy notice which outlines how personal data is collated and lawfully processed within the service. The privacy notice should be shared with and signed by parents.

This is to ensure the service complies with the Health and Social Care Standards which states; "I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed" (HSCS 4.23).

This area for improvement was made on 21 February 2022.

Action taken since then

The childminders were appropriately registered with the information commissioner's office (ICO) and we found personal information was stored appropriately.

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?	6 - Excellent
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	6 - Excellent

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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