

# Larman, Fiona Child Minding

Glasgow

**Type of inspection:**  
Announced (short notice)

**Completed on:**  
28 July 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Fiona Larman

**Service provider number:**  
SP2008970238

**Service no:**  
CS2008178422

## About the service

The childminder was registered to provide a care service 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.

The childminder operated her business from the family home in Kirkintilloch, East Dunbartonshire. The property was close to local parks, schools and nurseries. The childminder used the lounge/dining room for childminding purposes and had a safely enclosed rear garden which was used for outdoor play.

The childminder's aims and objectives included the following statement:

"I will work together with parents to make sure the care of their child is consistent, for children to be safe, secure and happy".

## About the inspection

This was a full inspection which took place on 07 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 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:

- looked at the feedback survey returned by parents;
- spoke with the childminder;
- observed practice and daily life;
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- The childminder had a very good understanding of her professional responsibilities. She worked within her conditions of registration and had appropriate policies and procedures in place to support her practice. As a result, children received a very good level of care.
- Children were happy, settled and relaxed in the childminder's care.
- The childminder had developed very positive relationships with parents to support children's needs and ensure positive outcomes for children.
- Children's emotional wellbeing was supported through nurturing, caring interactions.
- Children's play and learning was supported by the childminder's knowledge of child development and the benefits of outdoor learning.

## 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 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.

### 1.1. Nurturing care and support.

Children's emotional wellbeing was supported through nurturing, caring interactions. We observed the childminder giving cuddles and reassurance to the children in her care and assistance with play activities. We discussed how children were given opportunities and time to play and were encouraged to build relationships with each other.

The children present were happy, settled and relaxed in the childminder's care. The childminder was very responsive and it was obvious that good attachments had been formed. This meant that children felt loved and secure in the childminder's care. The childminder had developed very strong relationships with the families she provided care for and she worked hard to build supportive partnerships with the parents by being open and approachable. She organised welcome and settling meetings and provided an information pack to parents. She used text and WhatsApp on a daily basis to share information about children's progress with parents. She also offered parents more formal face to face meetings if they wished.

Parents commented:

"Fiona provides feedback forms and sends us evidence via WhatsApp photos. This is also evident at home when communicating with our children".

"Always welcoming and have catch up at collection times".

"We are invited in to discuss the day at every pick up".

"Fiona has been incredibly helpful in getting my child settled in, providing a safe and welcoming home. I appreciate her honest and thorough updates on my child's day, which reassures me that she is well cared for".

The childminder encouraged children to be friendly and respectful to each other. She modelled positive behaviour, actively listening to children and giving praise.

Children could bring their own lunches to the service or have lunch and snacks provided by the childminder. Healthy choices were encouraged and offered. Children's allergens were recorded, and children were supervised while eating which helped keep them safe. The childminder chatted to the children and offered support when needed. Children were given plenty of time to eat their lunch which ensured that the lunch experience was relaxed, sociable and unhurried.

Personal plans contained information that supported meeting children's needs. Families were involved in sharing information and planning to meet individual care needs, for example, details about children's interests, health and likes and dislikes. Next steps for learning and development were agreed in discussion with parents. A range of photographs of children were attached to individual plans to demonstrate development and achieving next steps. Floor books also showed children involved in a range of activities and achieving goals. Plans were reviewed with parents six monthly or sooner, if required, to enable the

childminder to fully support children.

The childminder had recorded information about children in accordance with the Scottish Government guidance, Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC). This enabled the childminder to work with families to give children the right support at the right time.

The childminder had appropriate medication records in place. She had recently completed child protection training through SCMA (Scottish Childminding Association).

### 1.3 Play and learning.

Children were supported to develop their language, literacy and numeracy skills. This was supported by daily outdoor play, visits to local parks and the library and weekly visits to local toddler groups with other childminders and children.

Children's play and learning was supported by the childminder's knowledge of child development and the benefits of outdoor learning. The childminder was familiar with current national guidance on outdoor play, for example, My World Outdoors, Out to Play and Realising the Ambition. She had developed her garden to include a range of resources promoting active play, curiosity and investigation, for example, mud kitchens, associated utensils, and a Wendy house.

Children could make independent choices about where they wanted to play and what they wanted to play with. This was supported by an environment which contained a wide range of toys, games, books and puzzles. Children enjoyed the play space with a range of easily accessible toys and resources.

Children's play was enhanced by the range of toys and activities on offer and there was a good balance of children's choice and adult led activities. For example, the childminder had 'loose parts' play materials which are natural, open-ended materials that support children to develop their curiosity, imagination and problem-solving skills. We saw children enjoying baking and making pizzas with playdough.

Parents commented:

"They are at the park or taking Fiona's dogs Buddy and Holly for a walk every day".

"Fiona does a lot outdoors with the children regardless of weather (within reason). Lots of walks and trips to the park which our son loves".

"Weather permitting, my child has the opportunity to play outside in the garden. She also enjoys going for walks in the pram and going to the park".

## How good is our setting?

**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.**

### 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities.

Children were cared for in a warm, comfortable and homely environment which helped them feel welcome, safe and secure. Play spaces were clean, bright and well ventilated. They had been carefully planned to meet children's needs and help them to feel included.

Children could choose from different play areas, for example, the lounge, dining area and safely enclosed rear garden. This helped promote children's choice and independence.

Children benefitted from accessing a variety of toys such as books, puzzles, games and imaginary play. Toys and resources were well organised and stored and were easily accessible to children. The childminder was aware of children's interests and toys were changed to meet their needs or choices. We saw the children present having fun as they played imaginatively. Sofas in the lounge provided opportunities for children to enjoy quieter activities, such as reading, or having space to relax.

Children benefited from a variety of outdoor play experiences which supported their emotional and physical wellbeing. As well as direct access to the garden area, children enjoyed visits to local play areas and woodland parks. The childminder walked to a range of spaces, ensuring children had daily physical exercise.

The childminder's house was very well maintained. Risk assessments were in place to identify hazards and put appropriate measures in place to reduce risks. Written permission had been sought for activities such as travel by car and visits to community facilities.

The childminder demonstrated good practice in infection prevention and control. She modelled good hand hygiene, for example, after wiping children's noses, and children's hands were cleaned before and after eating. Appropriate cleaning materials were used.

Parents who completed feedback surveys agreed that their children were safe whilst in the setting and children had access to a good range of quality toys and play materials.

## How good is our leadership?

**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.**

### **3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are well led.**

The childminder was committed and passionate about her role. She communicated well with families to ensure positive outcomes for children. A welcome handbook was given to parents/carers before starting to ensure they knew what to expect. Families were given regular updates about their child's development through daily conversations and regular reviews of children's care.

Families valued the relationships that the childminder had built with them. They made comments such as: "We are highly satisfied with the service provided by Fiona", and "My child has the opportunity to engage and socialise with other children of various ages. She is gaining confidence with Fiona". We observed the childminder giving children choices and opportunities for decision making.

The childminder demonstrated a positive commitment to improving her service; she regularly sought the views of the children and families, for example, through questionnaires and informal discussions with parents. This helped the childminder identify areas for improvement and development. The childminder confidently engaged with parents to ensure that they were fully involved in the service.

The childminder took opportunities to reflect on her practice. She followed the Care Inspectorate, receiving notifications and visiting the hub to read best practice documentation and guidance. In discussion she

demonstrated the impact of this on her service.

Parents' comments included:

"Fiona provides a high standard of care for our children. She plays a massive role in their development which is evident at home and through WhatsApp photos".

"Fiona provides open communication and feedback forms".

## 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.**

### 4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values.

The childminder was warm, kind and caring towards children which meant that they felt happy, safe and secure in her care. She was experienced and confident in her role and had developed a range of skills and knowledge that enabled her to build nurturing relationships and support children's individual needs. This demonstrated an understanding of child development and the importance of building positive relationships.

The childminder was committed and motivated to learn and improve her practice, whilst promoting positive outcomes for children. She had completed GIRFEC training and child protection training through SCMA. She had participated in SCMA webinars, eg potty training, Autism, Quality Improvement Framework, Infant mental health. The childminder discussed the benefits of this and impact on her practice, for example, the Autism webinar greatly helped her to interact with children with autism.

The childminder was also familiar with the Care Inspectorate Hub, an online resource library of best practice guidance, as a means of keeping up to date with best practice. We considered how evaluation of training completed and personal reading and research assisted with identifying improvement in practice and how this could be included in the service self evaluation. The childminder was motivated to explore this.

The childminder regularly engaged with other childminders. This provided opportunities to share ideas, gain knowledge and reflect on practice which contributed to positive outcomes for children.

The childminder had a very good understanding of her professional responsibilities. She worked within her conditions of registration and had appropriate policies and procedures in place to support her practice. As a result, children received a very good level of care.

All parents who responded to the feedback survey strongly agreed;  
"I am happy with the care and support my child receives in this service".

Comments included:

"Fiona is an amazing childminder and this is our second time using her".

"She is fantastic. My first child also attended Fiona and I feel Fiona contributed to her learning and personality in many ways. She's a brilliant childminder".

## 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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