

Watson, Celia Child Minding

Kilmarnock

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
28 May 2025

Service provided by:
Celia Watson

Service provider number:
SP2003901778

Service no:
CS2003003473

About the service

The childminder is registered to provide a childminding service for a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of 6 will be under 12, 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 childminders family.

This childminding service is located in the town of Kilmaurs, in East Ayrshire and is situated within easy walking distance to local schools and shops.

The accommodation used for childminding is on one level and comprises of a comfortable conservatory, a downstairs bathroom and a large enclosed garden.

The childminder aims to provide a childminding service in "a warm and loving environment where children will feel safe, secure, and happy".

About the inspection

This was an unannounced visit which took place on Tuesday 27 May and Wednesday 28 May 2025. The inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate Early Learning and Childcare team.

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 and their parents
- Spoke with the childminder
- Observed practice and daily life
- Reviewed documents

Key messages

- Warm, friendly relationships with children and their families
- Children who felt at home and trusted the childminder
- Well-resourced garden where children enjoyed a variety of active and restful activities
- The childminder should continue to keep up to date with changing practice.

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

1.1 Nurturing care and support

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

Children were happy and settled in the childminder's care. The childminder had developed a warm and trusting relationship with the children, which helped them to be secure and confident in her home. The childminder knew the children and their families very well. These friendly relationships meant that parents were comfortable sharing information with her and this helped her to meet children's needs. Parents told us that they found the childminder easy to talk to and they often asked her for her advice.

Each child had a personal plan which contained the required information. The childminder was able to tell us about the children, their needs and interests and how she cared for them. Children trusted her and they told us that they could talk to her about their worries. Their achievements were celebrated and they were praised. Children were encouraged to be independent and to think for themselves. We saw that they had formed friendships and looked out for one another, for example in the school playground.

Children were offered a healthy snack when they came in from school and nursery. Children told us that they thought that snacks were great. Children had some involvement in preparing snack, for example by spreading butter on a pancake and we thought that this could be done more regularly. Children chose where to eat their snack, and on our visit they chose to be outside. Whilst they did mostly sit down when eating, we have asked the childminder to monitor this to ensure that children are encouraged to always eat safely.

The childminder provides wraparound care, so children are there only before and after school and nursery for short periods of time. No children need to sleep whilst in her care. Appropriate procedures were in place for medication although no child has required medication whilst in her care recently.

1.3 Play and Learning

Children were having fun as they played with a variety of toys and games, which were easily available for them. The childminder knew about the children's interests and used these to ensure that suitable toys and games were available for them when they came to her house. She responded very well to children and listened to them which meant that their interests were well supported. Children were confident that they could ask for what they needed and we observed that children were able to plan and ask for the materials they needed to follow through the different ideas they had.

Children had a variety of opportunities to be active both indoors and outdoors, like playing swing ball and climbing on the climbing frame. They could also rest and chill out, if that was what they needed.

How good is our setting?

4 - Good

2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

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

The childminder's home was comfortable and welcoming with plenty of natural light and ventilation. The layout of the living space meant children had lots of space to move about, and make choices about what they were going to play with. The secure garden to the rear was easily accessible from the conservatory and provided a safe space for children to enjoy being outdoors.

The childminder clearly understood her responsibilities for keeping children safe. As well as written risk assessments, she very clearly thought about what was needed to protect children, and at the same time enable them to have a variety of experiences. Children were encouraged to think about their own safety, for example when crossing roads.

The childminder maintained her home to a high standard, ensuring that it was clean, tidy and well-organised. Children were supported to think about their own health when being encouraged to wash their hands when they came in and before eating. Parents had been informed about what was expected if their child was ill, ensuring a safe, healthy environment for all.

The childminder had not yet registered with the office of the Information Commissioner. This was an area for improvement in our last inspection and remains in this one.

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure the service meets best practice in supporting children's health welfare and safety the childminder should develop a privacy statement on relation to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

This ensures the environment and management and leadership is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which state that "I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice" (HSCS 4.11) and "I understand how my privacy and confidentiality are respected" (HSCS 4.18)

How good is our leadership?

4 – Good

3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

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

Children were cared for in a welcoming, friendly environment. The childminder had vision for her service which aimed to meet the needs of children and their families.

The childminder had open relationships with parents, which ensured that they were confident that they could talk to her and make suggestions. Parents commented that the childminder was very supportive and flexible in her approach to meeting their childcare needs.

The childminder was open to making improvements to her service and reflected on how she was caring for children and used these reflections to identify areas for improvement. She used a diary to record events in her service, as well as children's attendance. The childminder had previously sought parents' views about their child's care formally by using questionnaires but now preferred to this informally by talking to them.

How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values

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

The childminder was caring, supportive and respectful when interacting with the children. She had developed friendly relationships with parents who all thought highly of her skills and experience.

The childminder kept up to date with best practice and legislation through Care Inspectorate emails. The childminder knew about child development and practice, and had developed relationships with other providers in her area, and used these relationships to discuss changes in practice and their impact on her setting.

Although she hasn't attended child protection training recently, she does have a good understanding of her role and responsibilities for keeping children safe and does know what to do if she had any concerns about a child in her care. The childminder has an up to date First Aid certificate but has attended no other training recently. The childminder should ensure that she keeps up to date with changes in practice by seeking further learning opportunities.

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

To ensure the service meets best practice in supporting children's health welfare and safety the childminder should:

Further develop clear personal plans that focus on the individual needs of the child and how she will support these.

Ensure contracts for each child are completed with parents/carers that are signed, dated and reviewed at least yearly.

Make contact with the childminding support officers for support in developing a privacy statement on relation to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and registration with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Ensure that administration of medication, accident and incident formats are available and completed as and when required.

This ensures care and support and management and leadership is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which state that " 1.15 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), and "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 23 October 2018.

Action taken since then

All children had personal plans which set out what children needed for health, welfare and safety. These were reviewed regularly with parents and children where appropriate.

Contracts were in place for all children, reviewed, signed and dated.

Appropriate accident & incident and medication forms were in place and kept within each child's folder.

The childminder had not contacted the ICO or developed a GDPR statement and this will be carried forward within this inspection. This element of the area for improvement remains in this report.

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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