

# Kim Lamond Childminding Services

## Child Minding

ULLAPOOL

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
23 June 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Kim Lamond

**Service provider number:**  
SP2021000078

**Service no:**  
CS2021000131

## About the service

Kim Lamond is registered to provide a childminding service to care for a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. From 09 June 2025 to 19 August 2026 (or before if a child leaves the service) the childminder may care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than 6 are under 12 years, of whom no more than 4 are not yet attending primary school and, of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers include the children of the childminder's family.

The service operates from the childminder's home in a quiet residential area on the outskirts of Ullapool. She makes use of the kitchen/dining room, lounge, toilet facilities, and a bedroom for children who need a sleep. There is also a fully enclosed outdoor area which is very well used. The childminder also makes use of various local facilities including parks and walks to offer the children the opportunity to be healthy, active and have access to fresh air and exercise.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Monday 23rd June 2025 between 12:15 and 15:15. 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 the children attending the service.
- Reviewed feedback from parents.
- Spoke with the childminder.
- Observed practice and daily life.
- Reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- Children were very happy, relaxed and enjoyed spending time in the care of the childminder.
- Children experienced nurturing care and support from a childminder who knew them very well.
- The childminder had a clear knowledge of child development and caring for children's individual needs.
- The childminder had established strong working relationships with families.
- The childminder had developed a very warm and welcoming setting with a wide range of resources, including loose parts and open ended resources, which the children could independently access.
- The childminder demonstrated a commitment to professional learning and development to ensure high quality care.

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

### Quality indicator 1.1 - Nurturing care and support

There were three young children present on the day of the inspection who were all extremely happy and relaxed in the care of the childminder. They had secure attachments with the childminder who was very responsive to their individual needs. Children experienced warm, caring and nurturing approaches from her which supported positive outcomes for them. Loving, caring and warm relationships provided support to children, helping them to build resilience and promote their emotional wellbeing.

During the visit the childminder was very attentive and responsive to the needs of each of the children. We saw lots of warm and nurturing interactions, chatting, smiles, praise and encouragement. From our observations and discussions with the childminder, it was clear that she knew each of the children in her care extremely well which ensured that she was able to respond to their individual care needs. The childminder had put in place personal plans for each child, which contained relevant background information and details of the child's routine. The plans were completed with parents and carers and routinely reviewed to ensure that they continued to meet the changing needs of the children.

The childminder worked closely with families to ensure they supported children's routines and preferences. Having close working relationships with the parents allowed for open communication and information sharing. Comments from parents included 'always updates parents on their days, super friendly', 'Sends regular updates on what the kids have been up to, and always keeps us up to date with future plans'. As well as offering informal feedback at drop off and pick up times each day, the childminder also made use of an online app to keep in very regular contact with families and share photographs.

Children's health and wellbeing was promoted through the mealtime routine. Healthy home cooked meals were provided which met children's specific allergies, preferences and dietary needs. Mealtimes were calm and organised and were a positive experience for the children. The childminder sat with the children as they ate their lunch which supported quality engagement and ensured children were appropriately supervised.

At the time of the inspection, children did not need medication administered in the setting. The childminder had medication forms and effective systems, and we were confident that this would be appropriately managed to ensure the health and safety of children when needed.

The childminder was very aware of her responsibility to safeguard children. She had completed relevant training and had a good understanding of child protection. We were confident that the childminder was committed to her role and responsibilities in keeping children safe from harm.

### Quality indicator 1.3 – Play and learning

Children had fun taking part in a wide range of play experiences which reflected their interests and stage of development. The childminder offered children opportunities for both planned experiences and spontaneous play activities. These enriched children's play and learning and stimulated their natural curiosity. The childminder was responsive to children, encouraging and extending their imagination and learning. Sensitive and skilled interactions were used to extend children's thinking and learning.

Children were free to lead their own play and learning. They were able to independently choose from a range of resources and toys which were age and stage appropriate. There was a wide selection of natural and loose parts that can develop children's curiosity, creativity and imagination.

There was a large garden surrounding the property which contained a wealth of fun and exciting resources which offered children opportunities for challenge, creativity, developing independence and imagination. Outdoor play experiences were popular with all the children. They spent time outdoors every day which allowed them to be active and explore the world around them. The childminder also made very good use of the local community for walks and visits to the local woodland, which provided children to have access to fresh air and physical exercise.

The childminder observed children and listened to their ideas and wishes. She then used these to plan and extend learning. Children were supported to reach their full potential as the childminder recorded their achievements and tracked progress in their individual development plans. As well as providing daily feedback and photographs, she also routinely shared the personal development plans with families, which helped them to be involved in their children's play and learning experiences.

### How good is our setting?

**5 – Very Good**

We evaluated this key question as very 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 benefited from a safe, welcoming and homely environment with ample space, natural light and ventilation. This supported children to feel safe and secure. The environment offered children a fun and enjoyable experience and supported positive outcomes. The children enjoyed the freedom to play and explore their surroundings.

There was a very good selection of resources which captured the children's interests and supported their play and learning experiences. Resources were stored at a low level which allowed the younger children to access them easily. This made children feel valued, empowered them to choose their activities and enhanced their learning experiences. The childminder recognised the benefits of having open ended and natural resources to extend the children's learning through play. Children were able to direct their own play and activities, choosing and freely accessing age appropriate and interesting resources to support their learning. Parents agreed that the setting offered their children an exciting environment with so many opportunities to extend their play and learning.

Being outdoors was popular with all the children who attended. Children had direct access to the large garden where they could engage with a wide range of resources. The childminder also made good use of the surrounding area for walks and visits to the woods to allow the children to explore and investigate their local environment and community.

Children's safety and wellbeing was prioritised by the childminder. Children attending the service were kept safe through the various systems the childminder had in place. She had detailed risk assessments in place for all areas in the setting, the experiences offered to the children, and learning in the wider community. The childminder explained that she completed daily visual checks before the children arrived as well as at the end of the day.

The childminder had a very good understanding of robust infection, prevention and control measures. Effective hand hygiene routines were embedded at key times and personal protective equipment (PPE) was used to carry out personal care to promote children's health and wellbeing. We observed the children confidently washing their hands before lunch. Resources were routinely checked and cleaned.

## How good is our leadership?

**5 - Very Good**

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

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

Before enrolling their children, all families were provided with a full information pack which included information about the childminder, the vision, values and aims of the service, and policies. The childminder had developed a full range of policies and procedures which supported the service and reflected best practice. She was very proactive in routinely reviewing and updating these to ensure they aligned with current legislation and supported the continued delivery of high quality care.

The childminder was committed to the ongoing development of her service and routinely reflected on her practice to ensure that she provided improved outcomes for the children in her care. She had established very good working relationships with families and valued parental feedback and encouraged families to give feedback both formally and informally. Taking account of their views and suggestions contributed to families feeling valued, included and respected.

Having positive relationships with families which supported open communication was a key strength of the service. A variety of communication methods were used to keep families informed of their child's day. Daily face to face conversations, use of an online app to share messages and photographs helped families feel involved in all aspects of their child's play and learning. Parent comments included 'Kim always goes above and beyond. Sends regular updates on what the kids have been up to, and always keeps us up to date with future plans'.

Children were empowered and very much involved in the day to day running of the service and deciding what they would like to do while they were there. The childminder listened to any feedback the children made about the activities they took part in and took this into account when reviewing her service.

Throughout the inspection visit, the childminder demonstrated a motivated, enthusiastic approach to continuous improvement. She was able to confidently discuss her plans to develop her service and how she had fully involved the families in these plans.

### How good is our staff team?

### 5 - Very Good

We evaluated this key question as very 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

The childminder showed a warm and professional approach to her role. She recognised the importance of fun in children's play. She was enthusiastic and committed to providing high quality care, play and learning experiences with children at the heart of the service.

Children had established very strong attachments with the childminder. There were three children present on the day of the inspection who were all very happy, settled and relaxed in the care of the childminder. The childminder was very warm, nurturing and caring in her approach which supported the children to feel valued, respected and loved. We could see attachments had been formed as children received cuddles, smiles and reassurance as they played.

The childminder was very aware of and responsive to the individual needs of the children who attended her service. Children were encouraged to share their views, thoughts and opinions through regular discussion. Children were actively encouraged to choose activities and experiences each day. This meant children felt listened to, knew their views mattered and supported their self esteem and self confidence.

The childminder's knowledge and skills supported high quality care and experiences for the children. The childminder was reflective and was able to identify areas for development to support individual children in her care. She had attended a range of training to support and improve her practice, was very proactive in keeping up to date with key best practice guidance and had accessed useful websites to support her in developing the service. The childminder was able to tell us how she had used what she had learnt to develop the service to ensure that she met the individual needs of the children. She explained that she was hoping to complete further training as it became available. As a result, children and their families experienced high quality care and support from a childminder who was dedicated and passionate about their role in ensuring children thrived and flourished in their care.

### 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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Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

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