

Rennie, Gail Child Minding

Kirkcaldy

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
4 August 2025

Service provided by:
Gail Kennedy trading as Gail Rennie
Gail Kennedy trading as Gail Rennie

Service provider number:
SP2006961473

Service no:
CS2006132567

About the service

Gail Kennedy trading as Gail Rennie provides a childminding service from the family home in a residential area to the North of Kirkcaldy. The service is close to local amenities including green spaces, the local nursery and school and local shops. The service is delivered from the ground floor of the family home and children have access to the lounge, kitchen and upstairs bathroom. Children also have access to an enclosed front garden.

The service was registered to provide a care service to 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. The parts of the premises not to be used are all the bedrooms upstairs and the rear garden. Overnight service will not be provided.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection, which took place on 4 August 2025 between 09:30 and 12:45 hours. 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.
- Intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- Spoke with one minded child using the service.
- Spoke with the childminder.
- Requested feedback from all parents/carers.
- Observed practice and daily life.
- Reviewed relevant documents.

Key messages

- Children enjoyed warm and loving relationships with the childminder and members of their family.
- The childminder's knowledge and understanding ensured that children were provided with experiences that supported them to grow and develop.

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.

Quality indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support.

Minded children felt safe, secure and relaxed as a result of the strong connections formed with the childminder. This was enhanced by the childminder ensuring all children complete a period of transition prior to starting. This reduced children's anxiety and supported them in developing their skills in self regulation in a secure way. Children were comfortable with the childminder and members of their family including the family dog. The minded child present demonstrated fondness for the dog and was involved in playing with them. These interactions with pets contributed to children's emotional regulation through reducing anxiety and increasing their happiness whilst helping them to build responsibility.

Approaches to behaviour were restorative and inclusive, meaning children were supported in recognising and managing their feelings through supportive approaches to any unwanted behaviour. This meant children were learning to express themselves and listen to others whilst taking ownership of their actions.

Mealtimes provided children with valuable social interaction opportunities, and helped children build positive relationships with food and each other. Healthy eating was encouraged through the childminder supporting parents with provision of healthy lunchboxes, and fruit, milk, or water were actively promoted. Children were regularly reminded and supported to stay hydrated. The childminder's close supervision and provision of appropriately sized fruit helped reduce choking risks.

Children's dignity was maintained as the childminder ensured privacy for nappy changes. This meant children were respected and experienced a nurturing approach to personal care. The minded child was supported to wash their hands following nappy changes which helped built their self help skills along with their understanding of infection control.

Children's safety during sleep was promoted through the childminder's regular checks, management of ventilation and temperature along with following home routines. A travel cot and sleep mats were available and mostly used. One child currently slept in a buggy that enabled children to lie flat. We advised reviewing these sleeping arrangements should be considered, with alternative options sought to ensure that children are always comfortable, able to stretch and move freely in line with best practice guidance. Reference should be made to <https://scottishcotdeathtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/early-years-safe-sleep-guide.pdf> and shared with families to promote transitions from buggies to travel cots or sleep mats.

The childminder had a system in place for the recording of medication and accidents to support children's wellbeing. This ensured information was shared quickly which maintained children's health. Information recorded for administration of medication was limited therefore medication forms should now be developed in line with current guidance. This is to ensure that all relevant information is recorded prior to administration. The administration of medicine policy should also be updated to reflect this change. Reference should be made to the document 'Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding service' (**see area for improvement 1**).

Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning.

Children enjoyed lots of fresh air and physical activity as the childminder provided daily opportunities in the garden and in the local community. This enabled children to experience risk safely and supported their physical development. The very good use of the local and wider community ensured children enjoyed varied experiences. These included regular forest outings, park visits, sessions in the local library and toddler groups. This provided children with broader learning experiences meaningful to their lives and enhanced their connection to the wider world.

Planning of play experiences was mainly child led and children were able to choose what they wanted to do and were offered choices. The childminder shared how she used her observations of younger children's play and identified 'schemas' (repeatable patterns of behaviour in play) which they used to source and provide appropriate resources which fully engaged children. The childminder also thoughtfully provided resources which supported children in accepting changes in their lives such as wearing glasses. This responsiveness to children's interests and current needs enabled them to feel respected and included.

Personal planning was maintained which enabled the childminder to gather relevant information and meet children's needs. The childminder recorded where they provided additional support where needed, along with clear next steps. This enabled planning to meet children's individual needs and supported their development. 'All about me' sheets enabled the childminder to get to know children well and supported them to feel settled and secure. Information held was updated at least once every six months ensuring it was current.

Children were building responsibility as the childminder involved them in normal household tasks such as tidying up. This supported a home from home care experience and learning of life skills.

The childminder's skilled interactions were supporting children to achieve and build knowledge. She promoted children's language, literacy and numeracy naturally through play and ensured regular opportunities for singing and story telling to support language development. Co-researching with children on their current interests and projects using the computer supported children to extend their learning and enabled them to problem solve and use technology. The childminder was skilled in supporting children communicate their needs and interests and responding to their nonverbal cues. This ensured children were having fun and were happy at all times.

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure children receive the correct medication and information is correctly recorded the childminder should develop medication records to ensure all relevant information is gathered prior to administration in line with best practice guidance .

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care 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).

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.

Quality indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities.

Children enjoyed a welcoming space to play which was a relaxed and homely environment. Children were able to move freely around the living room and were closely supervised when in the kitchen area or front garden. This supported their continued safety and wellbeing and enabled them to have some control over where they played.

The childminder ensured children remained stimulated by rotating large boxes of toys and games which were easily accessible to all children. They were also able to access the cupboard, with support from the childminder, to make additional choices of resources. This meant resources met children's interests, supported their enjoyment and allowed them to make independent and informed choices and lead their own play.

Information about children was stored securely to ensure that only the childminder could view the information. The childminder was also confident in maintaining children's confidentiality when meeting and chatting with other childminders and when out in the community. This meant that children's personal details were protected.

Toys were clean and in very good condition promoting children's enjoyment and safety. Resources were varied and included natural and loose parts play materials which stimulated children's explorative play. Robust written risk assessments had been completed and fire drills were practiced regularly from different exits. The childminder gave assurance that the dog was never left unsupervised with children. These measures contributed to children's safety and built their familiarity with emergency procedures.

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.

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

Children benefitted from the childminder's commitment to ensuring positive outcomes for children and families. The childminder had reviewed their aims but found them to remain broadly the same in regard to providing learning within a homely environment. Clear aims provided the childminder with direction and supported ongoing reflection on provision.

The childminder had built good relationships with parents and their complementary comments seen with cards and questionnaires and submitted to us reflected their high level of satisfaction. Opportunities to provide views on the service were gathered through the use of questionnaires to both parents and children. This enabled the childminder to tailor the service to meet their needs.

Children's needs were being met through the childminder's understanding of best practice guidance in early learning and childcare. They were proactive in remaining abreast of developments and used this knowledge to reflect on and evaluate the service. This promoted positive outcomes for children. We reminded the

childminder that many of the online webinars held by the Care Inspectorate are recorded and still available to view on our 'YouTube' channel.

The childminder kept the service under regular review through measuring all aspects of provision against the quality framework indicators. An action plan supported the childminder in maintaining progress. Robust, thorough and continuous self evaluation meant the childminder continued to provide a quality service and positive outcomes for children.

There had been some confusion over completion of a PVG (protection of vulnerable groups) check for an adult in the household. The childminder should now ensure they notify the Care Inspectorate to allow for a relevant scheme update to be completed. This would provide assurance that all adults are fit to be around children (**see area for improvement 1**).

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure children are protected, the childminder should ensure a relevant PVG (protection of vulnerable groups) check is requested and completed through the Care Inspectorate for all adults over 16 years of age residing within the household.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed' (HSCS 4.23).

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.

Quality indicator 4.1: Staff skills, knowledge and values.

Children benefitted from the childminder's experience with their own family and years of caring for children in a minding capacity. Interactions between the minded child and the childminder were nurturing and compassionate which supported children to feel confident, secure and make progress. The childminder felt strongly about the importance of attachment in ensuring children were happy and relaxed in their care. This approach meant children felt loved and safe.

The childminder proactively remained abreast of developments in early years. They were a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and used resources from them and the Care Inspectorate to keep them informed of changes to legislation or best practice.

They maintained core training in child protection and first aid which contributed to them keeping children safe and healthy. Professional reading and use of best practice documents was carried out along with some online learning. This commitment to continued learning enhanced children's experiences and supported their outcomes.

The childminder kept a log of their professional development which supported reflection on their completed training and how it could be used to further develop the service. This contributed to further reflection on practice and improvement planning. We asked the childminder to also record the completed professional reading as part of their continuous development.

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?	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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