

# Hammell, June & Fred Child Minding

Larbert

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
21 August 2025

**Service provided by:**  
June & Fred Hammell June & Fred  
Hammell

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003908208

**Service no:**  
CS2003011422

## About the service

June and Fred Hammell work in partnership to provide a large childminding service. The service was provided from the family home in Larbert. All facilities for children were on the ground floor. They had access to a playroom, fully enclosed garden and toilet facilities.

They are registered;

1. To provide a care service to a maximum of 14 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of 12 will be under 12, of whom no more than 6 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 2 are under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.
2. Overnight service will not be provided.
3. The parts of the premises not to be used are upstairs.

The childminders work in partnership with Falkirk Council to deliver funded placements.

"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."

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Friday 08 August 2025 between 10:00am and 12:00. As no children were present, we concluded the inspection on Thursday 21 August between 09:30 and 11:45 when two children were being cared for. 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 two children using the service and received three completed electronic questionnaires from their parents/carers
- spoke with the childminders
- observed practice and how children were supported with their care, play and learning
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- Children's rights, needs and choices were supported very well by the childminders.
- Relationships with parents and carers were well established which promoted effective partnership working.
- The childminders knew children very well and supported their individual needs and routines.
- Children's learning and development was well supported as their interests were used to develop plans.
- Quality assurance could be further developed to include information about progress made which supports continued improvements.

## 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?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	4 - 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?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

### Quality Indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support

We evaluated this as quality indicator as good, where several strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

The childminders demonstrated a strong commitment to providing positive outcomes for children. The vision, values and aims reflected the service provided and promoted a positive ethos. It was evident that children had close bonds with the childminders which supported their emotional well-being. As a result, children were happy, relaxed and content as their needs, rights and choices were met. Parents shared "They (childminders) really make you feel like part of the family."

Effective communication with families meant partnership working with parents was well established. This enabled personal plans to be developed that reflected children's individual needs and interests. Older children had their views valued as they were able to include information they wanted to share. Plans were regularly reviewed with input from families and, where appropriate, the children themselves. Parents felt included and involved in shaping their child's care. They shared "I can regularly inform (the childminders) of changes to my son's plan and I am safe in the knowledge that it will be acted upon." As a result a child centred approach which supported responsive care was in place.

The childminders had completed relevant training in child protection to keep up to date with current practice. They recognised issues that affected children in respect of safeguarding. To further develop their practice we discussed information that should be recorded. Where needed, seeking advice from the relevant agencies will help keep children safe. We signposted them to the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland which outlines procedures for responding to concerns.

We identified that written permission was not in place for administering medication. To ensure medication is administered safely we signposted the childminder to the 'Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services December 2024'. This details records that need to be in place to support good practice.

### Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children had access to a variety of toys that promoted different play experiences. The resources and activities available were suitable for the children present, met their needs and stage of development. There was a good balance of planned and responsive activities as the childminders were aware of children's interests. This child centred approach meant children actively led their play. Their choices were supported by the childminder's positive interactions. During play, children had fun as their efforts were acknowledged and praised which gave them a sense of achievement.

A range of documentation was used effectively to record children's learning, development and achievements. We saw how the childminder used observation, tracking and individual planning to show how children benefited from the activities provided. As a result, children were progressing well. Parents shared "They (childminders) have so many fantastic activities laid out for the children." And "They have a well planned range of activities and, when younger took them (children) on so many adventures both in and out

of their home."

Outdoor play and the local community were well used to extend children's experiences. They learned about nature as they planted vegetables and flowers and were making bird feeders. They could experiment in the mud kitchen and have fun with water play. These experiences were used to promote literacy and numeracy through play.

### How good is our setting?

**5 - Very Good**

We evaluated this quality indicator as very good, where major strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

#### **Quality indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities**

We saw that all areas were well maintained, risk assessed and organised for children. Effective infection prevention and control measures minimised the spread of infection. As a result children were cared for in an environment that was safe, warm, welcoming and homely.

Children mainly used the playroom that was well organised for them. Displays of their work and achievements promoted a sense of belonging for children as they knew they mattered. Children's stages of development, interests and curiosities were well considered and reflected in the selection of resources on offer. As a result, they were engaged and supported in their play.

The fully enclosed garden offered children a safe space to play outside. It catered for all children's needs and offered a shaded area in pergola where they could rest and relax. Parents shared "(child's name) loves the outside space at the childminder's house. There are lots of things to play with no matter what age they are. The childminders are constantly updating what they have outside too."

Community resources were used every day which meant children benefited from exploring the natural environment. They had opportunities to go to local parks, woods and places of interest that promoted their curiosity and creativity. They learned about risk, had freedom to run around and played on large equipment which developed their physical skills and confidence. Parents said children were "developing resilience, confidence and independence" from having these opportunities.

### How good is our leadership?

**4 - Good**

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

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

The childminder demonstrated a strong commitment to providing positive outcomes for children. The vision, values and aims reflected the service provided. It was evident that children experienced a relaxed, friendly and safe environment where they were happy and confident. Parents shared "Entering their home feels like 'coming home' and we are always made to feel welcome. All children in their care are encouraged to support one another."

National and local guidance was used to support self-evaluation and identify areas for improvement. In addition, they participated in meetings with the local authority and used information from the Scottish childminding association (SCMA). As a result, an overview of the service was in place. To support further improvement, we highlighted a few policies and procedures that could be updated to reflect current best

practice guidance. For example, the safeguarding policy should reference the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland which was updated in August 2023.

We discussed how the childminders could further develop their approach to self-evaluation to embed a cycle of continuous improvement. For example, recording the significant/specific areas for improvement and evaluating them to assess the outcome of changes made. These reflections will support the delivery of high quality care.

Parents and children were involved in developing the service as the childminders asked their views. As a result, they felt listened to as their interests were used to plan activities and outings which supported their learning and development. Parents confirmed "They (childminders) are always asking me if there are any ways that they could improve and they consult my daughter too."

## How good is our staff team?

**5 - Very Good**

We evaluated this quality indicator as very good, where major strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

### Quality indicator 4.3: Staff Deployment

The values of the experienced childminders were evident as children's rights were respected. They worked very well together and agreed roles and responsibilities that supported a child centred approach. For example, one childminder always collected children from school while the other stayed in the home. This minimised transitions for younger children and maintained an established routine for older children.

Continuity of care for children was promoted as information was regularly shared. Their consistent approach meant children had positive experiences as their individual needs and interests were known and met. They worked well together to ensure children were supervised and had quality engagement throughout the day.

Children benefitted from the childminders' skills, knowledge and experience as they were committed to professional development. They used network meetings, training and guidance to keep up to date and share practice. As they implemented their learning, children had high quality experiences across the day.

Moving forward, examples of good practice could be recorded and an evaluation of learning to show how it has improved outcomes for children. To further support their professional development, the childminders were aware of the new framework for childminders. They should become familiar with 'A quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding'.

## 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?	4 - Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	4 - 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?	4 - Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	4 - Good

How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good

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