

Young, Kate Child Minding

Alexandria

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
3 June 2025

Service provided by:
Kate Young

Service provider number:
SP2003903374

Service no:
CS2003005646

About the service

Kate Young operates a childminding service from their home in the Alexandria area of West Dunbartonshire. The children are cared for in the lounge area, and have access to the kitchen and the downstairs toilet. Children also have supervised access to a fully fenced large garden, adjacent to the property. The childminder makes good use of local community and parks to extend the quality of children's experiences.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of five children at any one time up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than three children are not attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family/ household.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 2 June 2025. The inspection was concluded on the 3 June 2025 by telephone, confirming the inspection findings. 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 we:

- observed care for a total of three children using the service
- gathered feedback from two families using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- The childminder was warm, nurturing and loving in their interactions with children.
- Children were at the heart of the service and were cared for by a childminder who knew them and their families well.
- Opportunities for play and learning were enhanced through experiences in the local and wider community.
- The childminder was experienced, knowledgeable and committed to training and professional development.
- Children benefitted from a safe, welcoming, and hygienic environment with a range of resources that encouraged creativity and exploration.

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

Children were happy and settled in the childminder's care. They confidently chatted, smiled, and laughed lots throughout our visit. Nurturing interactions were observed that were responsive to each child's individual needs, as the childminder put the children first by providing consistent, loving care through cuddles, praise, and comfort. As a result, children felt secure, valued, and well cared for, which supported their wellbeing and encouraged the development of strong, trusting relationships.

The childminder knew the children well and confidently shared detailed knowledge of each child's needs, personalities, and interests. Parents strongly agreed they were involved in creating and reviewing personal plans for their children, which included key information such as their likes, dislikes, dietary requirements, and health needs. One parent told us, "We discuss daily how my child is feeling, the childminder supports me as a parent while keeping me updated on my child's development". By working closely with families, the childminder was able to provide care and support that was right for each child. As a result, children received individualised care that helped them feel valued, and cared for, supporting them to develop well and reach their full potential.

Settling-in visits were carefully planned to suit the needs of children and their families, with the childminder working closely with parents to provide flexibility and reassurance. To further support this, they regularly sent photos to parents, helping them feel connected and reassured throughout the process. Early, open communication helped build strong, trusting relationships, making parents feel confident and involved. The childminder fostered a warm, community atmosphere where local families connected, helping children feel settled and secure both in the setting and wider community.

Mealtimes were carefully planned around the children and their daily routines. These often included outings and visits to community groups, where children enjoyed picnics and ate alongside others. This supported their social development, built confidence, and added to their enjoyment, while ensuring the day's flow remained smooth and uninterrupted. Children had access to their own water bottles to help them stay hydrated. The childminder explained that on days when lunch was eaten at home, children could choose to sit at either the main dining table or a smaller, low-level table, promoting independence and encouraging decision-making.

Children's dietary needs and preferences were well understood and carefully supported by the childminder. They prepared lunch daily, offering a variety of sandwiches and fresh fruit, while also allowing parents to provide packed lunches if preferred. Parents were positive about the food provided, sharing comments such as, "My child is always saying they have had this or that to eat, over and above what I have provided", and "My child is always provided with food they enjoy". Overall, mealtimes were enjoyable experiences that encouraged healthy habits and supported children's development.

At the time of the inspection, no children required medication. There was a medication policy in place to support the childminder in managing medication safely when needed. They used Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) template forms to record any medication given, which reflected best practice and included parental consent. This helped ensure children's safety and supported their overall health.

Quality Indicator 1.3: Play and learning

Children were relaxed and actively engaged in their play, confidently leading their own learning. They made independent choices about what they wanted to do, showing a strong sense of ownership. We observed children enjoying a variety of experiences, including listening to stories, singing, role-play picnics, colouring in, and yoga. One child shared that some of their favourite things to do were "colour in, ride the bikes outside, and splash in muddy puddles."

Parents were very positive about the range and quality of experiences on offer, sharing comments such as, "The experiences provided to the children are second to none," and "The childminder provides so many enriching experiences, the kids are always busy and learning". These varied play and learning opportunities nurtured children's curiosity, supported their skill development, and meaningful engagement with learning.

The childminder engaged warmly with the children, using skilful questioning to build vocabulary and extend their thinking. Children were relaxed as they looked at photographs together, confidently recalling and reflecting on their experiences. By providing one-to-one and small group interactions, the childminder offered valuable quality time that benefited the children, creating important moments for them to connect, talk, and share their ideas, which helped enhance their learning.

A well-balanced mix of planned and responsive experiences was provided, based on children's stage of development and interests, as well as seasonal topics and cultural events. Language, literacy, and numeracy were naturally promoted through daily interactions, resources, and visual displays. Tracking was carried out regularly to support children's learning, this involved observing and noting their progress, which helped plan experiences that were suited to their stage of development, and responsive to their needs and interests.

Children's voices were actively listened to by the childminder, floor books had been introduced to build on children's interest in looking at photographs, providing additional ways to revisit and reflect on their play and experiences. To further enhance children's participation and ownership of their learning, we suggested increasing their involvement in contributing to the floor books. This could include activities like cutting out and sticking in photos, adding children's comments, and incorporating their drawings or writing. This responsive approach valued children's input, creating strong links between their interests and learning, which helped keep them engaged, encouraged enjoyment, and built confidence in sharing their ideas.

Children's play and learning were further enhanced through strong links with the local and wider community. They enjoyed visiting local parks and toddler groups, which provided opportunities to develop social skills, form new relationships, and build confidence. Parents clearly valued these experiences, sharing feedback such as, "The childminder takes my children on adventures like bug hunting, tree exploring, and going on bear hunts," and, "They visit all the local parks, attend toddler groups regularly, and always ensure the children have time for outdoor play every day". These experiences contributed significantly to children's growth and wellbeing, helping them build confidence and a strong sense of connection both within the childminder's setting and the wider community.

Families received regular updates and photographs of their child's experiences through WhatsApp, a Facebook group and daily chats. This communication helped keep families involved in their child's learning and allowed them to share in their successes and achievements. As a result, children's progress was recognised and celebrated both within the service and at home, strengthening the connection between play, learning, and family engagement.

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

A warm, homely, and calm environment had been created by the childminder, where children felt comfortable, settled, and relaxed. Parents shared this view, with one commenting, "The childminder's home is welcoming, warm, and supportive. I know my child is well cared for and thriving in their care". The lounge was bright and airy, with large windows. We saw children excitedly looking out and pointing when they spotted deer in the nearby field. The childminder explained that these moments happened often and led to spontaneous walks and nature-based adventures, inspired by the children's interests.

The childminder made effective use of the space, regularly adapting it to accommodate different experiences for the children. Cosy couches and soft furnishings provided a relaxing area for rest, while the dining kitchen offered a welcoming space for snacks, baking, and creative activities. Toys and resources were well-organised in low-level storage, making them easily accessible for children. This encouraged independence and supported them to make choices during their play. This well-planned use of space created a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment where children could explore freely and enjoy meaningful everyday experiences.

The large enclosed garden, adjacent to the childminder's home, was well designed, offering different areas for play and exploration, including, a mud kitchen, outdoor seating with sofas and cushions, a table and chairs, and a summer house for quiet activities provided children with a range of experiences. A spacious storage shed kept toys and resources organised and easily accessible. The smaller front garden was dedicated to planting and growing, where children told us they were growing carrots and potatoes, encouraging them to engage with nature. These well-equipped outdoor spaces enriched children's play by supporting creativity, exploration, and relaxation.

The childminder had effective infection prevention and control measures in place and had completed infection control training to support best practices. They explained their nappy-changing procedure, highlighting how it respected children's privacy and dignity. Disposable aprons and gloves were used during each change, along with a wipeable changing mat to maintain hygiene. The environment was tidy, well-organised, and hygienic. Daily routines were carried out to ensure high standards of cleanliness. The children's toilet was clean and stocked with soap, toilet paper, and disposable hand towels. Toys and materials were visibly well-kept. These measures helped minimise the risk of cross-infection, supporting a safe, healthy space where children could play and learn comfortably.

Children were cared for in a safe, well-maintained environment. On-going risk assessments and frequent visual checks helped to minimise hazards throughout the day. The childminder planned ahead for all weather conditions, ensuring children wore sun cream in sunny weather and waterproofs and wellies for rainy outdoor play, while always making sure that drinking water was accessible. These proactive safety measures reduced hazards and gave children freedom to explore confidently with minimal risk.

There were appropriate systems in place to record any accidents or incidents involving children. Although no recent records were noted during the inspection, our conversation with the childminder showed their clear understanding of what should be reported and how this should be done. We were confident that records would be completed correctly and shared with parents when required, supporting children's safety and wellbeing.

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

Prior to starting, families were informed about the service's vision and values, which emphasised providing a safe, fun, and stimulating environment for children. These values were clearly reflected in practice throughout our visit, as children were consistently well cared for in a nurturing and engaging environment. For example, children were seen playing happily together, making choices in their play, and exploring activities in a safe and well-organised space. This strong commitment to the values helped create a positive environment where children felt safe, confident, and ready to learn.

Another important value upheld by the childminder was family involvement, recognising its importance in supporting positive outcomes for children. While understanding that parents often had busy schedules, they consistently made an effort to involve families in events such as charity walks, community litter pick, Christmas parties, graduation, and sports days. These events were thoughtfully planned to create meaningful experiences for the children and their families. The childminder went out of their way to make these occasions special, helping to build a strong sense of community and shared celebration. This approach demonstrates how the childminder's values are embedded in their daily practice and how they use their skills to actively encourage meaningful engagement and collaboration with parents, strengthening partnerships that benefit children's development and wellbeing.

The childminder maintained regular communication with families through WhatsApp, a closed Facebook group, and daily conversations. They valued these daily chats, using the information shared to make changes that reflected children's interests and routines. Questionnaires were also used to gather feedback and ensure parents were happy with the service, helping to identify any areas for improvement. The childminder spoke respectfully about supporting parents and offered flexibility whenever possible. This open and responsive approach fostered trust and collaboration, enabling the childminder to effectively meet the needs of children and families. As a result, effective communication helped strengthen positive partnerships, reflecting a service that was led well.

As a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA), the childminder made effective use of available resources, such as, accident and medication form templates to help ensure safety standards were consistently met. They also maintained close links with other childminders, regularly spending time with them to share experiences, ideas, and best practice. This supported network enhanced the childminder's skills and confidence, helping to maintain a safe and nurturing environment for the children in their care.

The childminder was registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), demonstrating a clear commitment to data protection. They handled personal information responsibly, respected families' confidentiality, and ensured that sensitive data was stored and managed securely.

The childminder was committed to on-going improvement and used best practice guidance, including resources from the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and the Care Inspectorate, to support self-evaluation. Through regular reflection, an improvement plan with monthly tasks, a self-evaluation checklist, and parent feedback, they identified strengths and areas for development. This supported a culture of continuous improvement, leading to positive outcomes for children and families.

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

The childminder was warm, friendly, and approachable, demonstrating a genuine passion for their role. They engaged positively with the inspection process, showed a clear understanding of their professional responsibilities, and consistently worked within the conditions of their registration, demonstrating awareness of the variation process required to make any changes to those conditions. This ensured the service remained compliant and delivered care that met required standards.

Strong, trusting relationships had been established with families, with children placed at the heart of the childminder's practice. Warm, nurturing, and responsive interactions supported the development of secure attachments. By listening to children and acting on their views, the childminder helped them feel valued, included, and that their voices mattered.

The childminder had established professional links with local community groups, nurseries, and schools attended by minded children. By maintaining these strong connections, they ensured smooth handovers during drop-off and pick-up times, supporting continuity in the children's care and routines. As a funded provider with West Dunbartonshire Council, the childminder also developed additional partnerships. This collaborative approach enhanced children's transitions and strengthened the overall quality of support offered the childminder, children and their families.

Child protection training had been completed by the childminder, who demonstrated a clear understanding of how to keep children safe. They confidently described the signs that could indicate a child might be at risk and were familiar with the correct reporting procedures, supported by their child protection policy. This knowledge helped maintain a safe and secure environment where children were well protected from harm.

On-going professional learning positively influenced the care and support children received. In addition to the core training already completed, the childminder undertook further training in supporting additional needs and Book bug, which strengthened their understanding of child development and further developed their confidence in meeting individual children's needs. They kept a training log, which helped track their ongoing learning. We saw this in a story session, where the childminder used different voices and expressions to keep the children interested and excited to hear more. Children benefited from a childminder who was committed to them, resulting in them being supported to grow and thrive.

Parents were very happy with the service provided and shared positive feedback about the childminder. One parent said, "the childminder is fantastic, they make sure my child is happy, supported, and always learning while in their care", another added, "the childminder is a brilliant support to me and my family and always goes above and beyond for us". These comments reflect the strong, trusting relationships the childminder has built with families and the positive impact of her care and support.

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

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.