

Bodys, Gillian Child Minding

Cumnock

Type of inspection:
Announced

Completed on:
24 June 2025

Service provided by:
Gillian Bodys

Service provider number:
SP2011982854

Service no:
CS2011300995

About the service

Gillian Bodys provides a childminding service from their property in a quiet residential area of Cumnock, East Ayrshire. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of six children up to 16 years of age. The numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own children. The childminder has an assistant who helps when required. At the time of our inspection, there were two children in attendance at the service.

The service is close to local primary schools, shops, parks, and other amenities. The children are cared for in the kitchen and playroom, and they use the downstairs bathroom. Children also have access to an enclosed rear garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Monday, 23 June 2025 between 13:30 and 15:00 hours and Wednesday, 24 June 2025 between 10:00 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 the service. This included registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- observed practice and daily life;
- spoke with two children using the service;
- reviewed documents;
- spoke with the childminder and assistant; and
- looked at Microsoft Forms from three parents/carers to gather their views and feedback.

Key messages

- Children experienced warm and nurturing care.
- Children's individual needs were met.
- Children were cared for in a home that was bright, clean and welcoming.
- Strong relationships between the childminder, children and families supported positive outcomes for children.

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?	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?

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 received warm and nurturing care. For instance, kind and caring interactions were observed when children sought comfort and cuddles from the childminder. As a result, the children were happy and felt settled in the childminder's home. The childminder knew the children well and had established positive relationships with their families. One parent told us, "She has a great relationship with my children and treats them like they are one of her own family." This supported consistent care and support for children.

Children's care and wellbeing needs were effectively met through the use of updated personal plans. These plans were developed in collaboration with families and provided detailed information about each child's needs, preferences, and progress. The childminder observed children's development and recorded strategies to support their continued growth. This information was shared with families to encourage learning at home. Additionally, the childminder communicated children's daily experiences at drop off and pick up. Parents told us, "Trust Gillian with everything, she always puts the children first and has great communication with me," and "Communicates well with us to keep us informed on our child." This ensured positive partnerships between the childminder and families to support children's progress.

Children could rest or relax when needed. In the playroom, it is comfortable with small chairs, beanbags, and cushions that help provide cosy spaces for children to rest and relax. This supported children in self-regulating their emotions.

Children attending the service during our inspection who need medication. The childminder understood their responsibility in managing and storing medication. This ensured children's safety.

Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning.

The children were happy and content in the childminder's home. We observed them laughing and chatting as they played with each other. There was a variety of sensory toys available for the children to access. The childminder supported the children by playing alongside them and asking questions, which helped to extend their learning.

Children had the chance to select from a variety of toys and resources suitable for their age and developmental stage. These included arts and crafts materials, books, board games, toy animals, construction toys, trucks, cars, a toy kitchen and dolls. This selection supported children in learning through play. A parent shared with us, "Encouraged to participate in fun games and activities that help her develop."

During our visit, the children were both happy and engaged as they chatted with each other, smiled, and made baby noises to the childminder. This activity supported their language development. Their numeracy opportunities were also enhanced through play, such as playing number games, using number displays, and accessing measuring resources. The use of 'loose parts' and open-ended resources fostered the children's imagination and problem-solving skills. These everyday objects and materials help children develop their ideas, creativity, and curiosity.

Children had regular opportunities to play and learn in the community. They often went on walks and visited local parks, Dumfries House, and the beach, which supported them to develop connections with their own community.

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.

The childminder's home was clean, bright, and inviting. The living area and playroom was comfortable, well-ventilated, and filled with natural light. There was ample space for children to play, which made them feel welcome and valued.

Suitable infection control measures, including handwashing and cleaning procedures, were in place to minimise the spread of infection. This helped keep children safe.

The playroom was arranged with a wide variety of toys that interested the children, including sensory toys, trucks, building blocks, arts and crafts, and other age-appropriate toys. This encouraged them to learn through play as they selected toys based on their interests. As a result, the children enjoyed themselves.

Children had daily access to a secure garden that was thoughtfully designed to cater to their interests and developmental stages. The garden featured a variety of outdoor toys, including a goalpost, balls, and ride-on toys. This setup supported the children's health and wellbeing by encouraging energetic play.

Outdoor play was encouraged through trips and outings, such as walks to the local park and Dumfries House. On outings, children accessed a variety of play equipment, such as swings and climbing frames. Parents told us their children get the opportunity to: "Play with other kids outside or take the family dog out for a walk," and "Are actively encouraged to play outside." This supported children's emotional and physical wellbeing.

Children's and families' personal information was securely stored, and the childminder had registered with the Information Commissioner's Office to ensure the protection of personal data. This helped protect people's privacy.

How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

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

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

Children benefitted from effective partnership working between parents and the childminder. This ensured that children's care and learning routines were met. A parent shared with us, "Any issues or concerns, big or small, she informs and if she can help, she will."

The childminder spoke informally with parents during drop-off and collection times. This provided informal opportunities to gather feedback and support improvements. The childminder used questionnaires to gather more formal views about their service. A parent told us they are, "Given the opportunity to provide feedback." This supported children and families to be meaningfully involved in the improvement process.

The childminder had some self-evaluation in place, but it was unclear what impact this had on the service. During the inspection, we discussed the Care Inspectorate document 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare' and how this could be used with parents and children. This would support future development in evaluating the service. We have signposted the Childminder Care Inspectorate self-evaluation toolkit.

Photographs and information were shared with families using digital technology. This meant families were included in children's experiences, successes, and achievements. Parents confirmed that daily communication informed them about their child's experiences with the childminder and their progression.

The childminder developed a range of policies and procedures that were shared with parents, ensuring that they knew what to expect from the service. The childminder should continue to review these regularly and amend them in accordance with good practice guidance and frameworks. This would support high-quality care based on relevant guidance and best practice.

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 4.3: Staff deployment.

When needed, the childminder deployed an assistant to support them in meeting children's needs. Although this was infrequent, we saw that the assistant interacted with the children warmly, kindly, and with compassion. This supported children to feel valued, loved, and secure.

The assistant was knowledgeable about children's health and development to meet their needs. Parents told us: "That my child feels safe and comfortable and able to speak to her childminder about anything," and "That they feel safe and are able to open up, if not to me, then to Gillian or Steven."

The childminder and assistant had reflected on and improved their practice. They had undertaken purposeful and comprehensive reading and training; for example, autism training and first aid. Parents / carers who provided feedback strongly agreed that the childminder and assistant had the appropriate skills, knowledge, and experience to care for their child and support their health and wellbeing.

The childminder and assistant continued to develop their childcare skills and knowledge to ensure children experienced a wide range of care, play and learning opportunities that met their needs. A parent told us, "They always come out smiling and have loads to tell me about what they have been up to." As a result, children were happy, content and stimulated within the childminding environment.

The assistant was supported within their role and development through regular supervision. This allowed

them to discuss and plan any training that would support their progress and development within the service and as individuals.

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?	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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