

Leannes Childminding Child Minding

Aberdeen

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
25 June 2025

Service provided by:
Leanne Spencer

Service provider number:
SP2023000072

Service no:
CS2023000105

About the service

Leannes Childminding is registered as a childminding service to a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers include the children of the childminder's family/household. No overnight care can be provided.

The childminder provides this service from their home in a suburb in Aberdeen. The accommodation used for childminding is on one level and comprises of a lounge, dining kitchen and a bathroom. The fully enclosed rear garden is also used. The property is close to local amenities including schools and shops and there is on street parking available.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Tuesday 24 June 2025 from 14:00 to 18:00 and Wednesday 25 June 2025 from 11:30 to 12:45. 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 registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since registration. This was the first inspection of the service.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- Spoke with the childminder
- Spent time with the three children attending the service at the time of the inspection
- Observed the children and their interactions with the childminder
- Reviewed documents
- Reviewed written feedback from three families.

Key messages

- Warm, caring relationships had been established which helped the children to feel confident, safe and secure.
- Children benefitted from engaging in a range of creative and well planned play experiences which supported them to have fun and experience joy.
- Children were welcomed into a warm, homely and safe environment.
- Reflective practice meant that the childminder continuously improved the quality the service.
- Ongoing professional development supported the childminder to ensure high quality care and support were provided and positive outcomes for children were achieved.

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?	4 - 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.

1.1 Nurturing care and support

Children felt nurtured by the childminder who comforted them with hugs, sat at their level and spoke with them in a gentle and calm voice. Children had clearly formed a positive attachment with the childminder. One parent told us, "she is fun, caring and kind and very responsible" and another that, "she cares about my child's happiness."

Comprehensive personal plans which outlined the children's needs and how these were to be supported were developed in partnership with parents and carers. These provided a holistic overview of each child. Parents and carers met with the childminder on a six monthly basis to review these to ensure that all key information was accurate and up to date. It was also an opportunity to discuss how their child had progressed across key areas. The childminder outlined the individualised support they were providing and the positive impact this had on outcomes for the children. Positive examples of this were observed during the inspection. Parents confirmed that they worked in partnership with the childminder regarding their children's needs. One parent told us, "Leanne always updates personal plans frequently and listens to anything I need to add....." and another that the childminder, "provides regular updates on my child's development, milestones and behaviour."

The childminder supported children well whilst they ate packed lunches provided from home. Children were fully supervised and supported as needed. Fresh water was available at all times with the childminder aware of the importance of ensuring children were adequately hydrated.

Children's personal care took place in line with privacy and dignity and interactions during this time were warm and nurturing. Although we did not observe sleep routines the practice described by the childminder was positive and supported individual needs and preferences.

The childminder was knowledgeable about best practice in relation to the management of medication. A clear administration policy was in place underpinned by best practice guidance. Records were in place to ensure accurate recording of medication received and dispensed. Safe arrangements were in place for storage of any medication. No medication was currently needed by children attending the setting.

The childminder was aware of their responsibilities in relation to keeping children safe. They had undertaken child protection training and had developed an appropriate child protection policy. The childminder spoke confidently about action they would take if they had concerns about a child's wellbeing.

1.3 Play and learning

Children had fun as they experienced high quality play, learning and development opportunities. These included developing their mark making skills by drawing with chalks outdoors and also matching games to support colour identification. Loose parts such as pine cones, shells, spoons and buckets supported a child's interest in the transportation schema. The child was very engaged in scooping up shells and pine cones and dropping them into a bucket of water. The childminder kept their language simple and used

repetition to help support language development when engaging positively with children in all these activities. Storytelling was also used to support literacy and language development. Musical instruments were used to support children to be creative.

Children had daily opportunities to play outdoors, experience fresh air and participate in energetic play. This included the fully enclosed rear garden with a range of resources that children were encouraged to select from and lead their own play. They visited community spaces such as local parks and nature paths and walks to the local library. Regular meet ups with other childminders locally at parks and soft play centres supported the children to develop their social skills. During holiday periods the childminder took the children on extended outings both within the Aberdeen area and further afield. These included Aberdeen Science Centre, a tour of the local football stadium and larger outdoor play spaces.

The childminder was committed to supporting children's learning and development. Children's strengths, interest and progress were recorded within their personal plans and the childminder worked with parents to identify meaningful next steps. The childminder had a very good knowledge of child development and use this to support children's progression. We observed some very positive examples of the childminder supporting a child to build up their confidence.

How good is our setting?

4 - Good

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

2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

Children benefitted from a well furnished, comfortable, welcoming and homely environment. There was plenty natural light and ventilation. All furnishings and play resources observed were in very good condition.

The childminder's home was very clean with cleaning taking place where needed throughout the day. We observed nappy changing which mostly followed best practice, such as using gloves and aprons and disposing of these at the correct point in the procedure. However the childminder did not wash their hands or those of the child afterwards. To ensure a high level of infection prevention and control this should always be undertaken. The childminder advised that they did usually do this and would ensure that this was adhered to consistently moving forward.

The childminder showed an awareness of potential hazards and had identified actions to minimise safety risks to children. Appropriate risk assessments were in place. We suggested including the children in the risk assessment process and discussed how this could be achieved in a child friendly way. This would help to increase children's awareness of how to manage risk within their daily routines and play experiences. Parents felt the environment was very safe. One parent told us that, "Leannes setting is very safe and well maintained" and another that, "Leannes place is a safe space for children in all ages. She is very attentive and ensures children are safe around the house."

The childminder's lounge was a cosy and comfortable room with ample space for children's play. There was room to move around and explore and comfortable sofas provided a place to rest and relax. The dining kitchen and the rear garden were also used for childminding and children led where they wanted to play.

Some good quality and interesting resources were in place for children to use. These included a range of loose parts to support children to create and use their imagination. A variety of books, puzzles, educational games and mark making materials helped to support children's literacy and numeracy.

Children and families information was securely stored. The childminder was registered with the Information Commissioner Office (ICO) and understood their role in keeping information secure.

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.

3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The childminder was committed to providing a quality service to children and families. The childminder had a clear vision for their service. Information about the childminder's aims and objectives were outlined in a welcome information pack for parents and carers and was consistent with what we saw in practice. We observed happy, relaxed children who experience positive care, play and learning experiences from the childminder, who placed children at the centre of the service. This helped contribute to positive outcomes for children.

The childminder was aware of and was using the 'Quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged children' to support their practice. They had sought support from the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) to help develop self evaluation using the new SCMA tools. The childminder demonstrated that they had fully reflected on their practice and highlighted what they were doing well and what could be developed further. There was a clear improvement plan in place, highlighting each identified action and recording progression towards meeting these goals. We could see that the childminder was working through the improvement plan and making changes which had an impact including, for example, developing a safe sleeping policy and developing a cosy space for children to relax.

The childminder encouraged and welcomed informal feedback on a daily basis when children were being dropped off or collected. We saw very positive engagement between the childminder and a parent during the inspection visit. A parent told us that the childminder "always listens to suggestions." Six monthly review meetings were also set up to ensure protected time for parents and the childminder to review all documentation and consider whether changes were needed to ensure their children's needs were being met. This also provided an opportunity for parents and carers to provide feedback on how the service could continue to be improved. In addition to this the childminder encouraged parents and carers to complete questionnaires at various points during their children's time at their service and also on leaving. These included detailed questions and very positive responses had been consistently received from parents.

The childminder received verbal feedback from children and they were involved in choosing new resources to purchase, for example. We discussed how it would be beneficial to increase the range of ways in which children's feedback is obtained and used to develop the service.

How good is our staff team?**5 - Very Good**

We evaluated this quality indicator as very good. We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children.

4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values

Children's wellbeing was promoted, as the childminder recognised the importance of warm and compassionate interactions. Strong attachments between the children and childminder had been formed, supporting children to feel loved and valued. The childminder had a very good knowledge of each child, their individual needs and how they were to be supported.

The childminder demonstrated that they had been continually learning since they were registered, for example, updating policies and procedures and adding new ones such as the safe sleeping policy. The childminder was reflecting on their practice (self evaluation), considering how best to meet the needs of children and promoting their wellbeing through positive experiences.

The childminder had undertaken a wide range of training since registration, including core training such as infection prevention and control, paediatric first aid, child protection and food hygiene. They were able to share their learning from these courses and how they had impacted on their practice. The childminder spoke with confidence, for example, about how they would manage any child protection concerns or medical emergencies. Additional training had also been undertaken relevant to supporting the current children the childminder was caring for. Support had also been sought and received from the SCMA to help develop the childminder's knowledge and skills further. It was important to the childminder that she continued to learn and develop her service.

Strong links with other local childminders provided the childminder with opportunities to share information, ideas and best practice.

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?	4 - Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	4 - 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

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