

# Walsh, Linda Child Minding

Glasgow

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
24 June 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Linda Walsh

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003902719

**Service no:**  
CS2003004771

## About the service

Linda Walsh is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16 of whom a maximum of six will be under 12 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 service operates from the childminder's family home in Kilsyth, North Lanarkshire. The service is close to a local school, nursery, shops, parks, woodland areas and public transport links.

Children have access to a lounge, kitchen/dining area on the lower level and toilet facilities on the upper level. The bedrooms are not registered for childminding purposes. Children can also access a spacious, enclosed garden from the lounge.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 24 June 2025 between 09:45 and 12:20. 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:

- spent time with one young child who was attending the service
- spoke with the childminder
- reviewed feedback from four parents/carers using MS Forms
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- The childminder knew children very well and positive relationships had been developed with their families.
- Relationships and interactions between the childminder and the minded child were warm, loving and caring. As a result they felt safe and secure in the setting and were happy and thriving.
- Children had very good opportunities to engage in quality play experiences which supported their learning and development and reflected their interests.
- Children were cared for in a homely and safe environment.
- Children had very good opportunities to visit interesting places in their local and wider communities.
- The childminder remained committed to their professional development which supported them to meet children's individual needs effectively.
- Some aspects of record keeping would benefit from being reviewed.

## 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?	4 - 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 positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

### Quality indicator 1.1: Nurturing Care and Support.

We observed a happy and content child who was thriving in the childminder's care. Interactions between the child and the childminder were warm, caring and trusting. The childminder responded to their needs in a nurturing and respectful way and the child was provided with love and affection. This supported the child to feel safe and secure. A parent/carer commented on behalf of their child that the childminder is "caring and keeps me busy." Another told us that, "Linda is gentle and caring. My child is still very much developing and Linda does all they can to support them."

Children's wellbeing was supported through the childminder's knowledge of their individual needs, personal preferences and interests. Important information about their health, wellbeing and development was recorded in their personal plans. The childminder had a good understanding of Scottish Government's guidance 'Getting it right for every child' (GIRFEC) approach and the wellbeing indicators were well considered when planning children's care. Personal plans were reviewed regularly with parents/carers which ensured they were involved in their child's care. A parent/carer commented, "Linda provides paperwork regularly and discusses with us anything that we would like my child to work on/develop whilst in their care."

The childminder spoke about the positive relationships that had been established with parents/carers and the importance of effective communication. Regular discussions and daily diaries helped the childminder share and gather information about children. This helped ensure good links between the home and childminding setting, which supports continuity of care. A parent/carer commented, "Linda keeps me up dated on my child's progress daily."

The young child's personal routines were followed and the childminder ensured they had their nap after breakfast. This ensured their needs were being met and demonstrated that parents/carers wishes were respected. The childminder was aware of the importance of ensuring children were safe when sleeping to support their safety and development. We suggested it would be helpful to refresh their knowledge on safe sleep practices and signposted them to, 'Safe Sleep for Babies. A guide for early years care providers, childminders and foster carers.'

We did not observe the child having lunch or snack during our visit, as the child had just eaten before we arrived. The childminder described positive mealtime experiences where children's independence and the development of social skills were promoted. Parents/carers provided all meals and children were encouraged to eat healthily. We highlighted the importance of children having access to fresh water throughout the day to ensure they are kept hydrated.

We found that medication procedures would benefit from being reviewed and a more consistent approach to completing records was needed. We acknowledged the positive steps taken by the childminder to address this following our visit. The childminder agreed to take account of best practice guidance when reviewing and updating procedures and records keeping. 'Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services' can be accessed from the Care Inspectorate HUB.

**Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning.**

We found the quality of children's play and learning experiences to be very good in this service.

The young child was able lead their own play in a stimulating environment with a range of resources which reflected their interests and stage of development. Through observations of the child at play, being attuned to their interests and having a good understanding of schematic play, the young child had opportunities to explore, experiment, and discover at their own pace. We observed the young child having fun with bubbles, enjoying stories and playing with some loose parts materials. A parent/carer commented that their child 'has lots of fun while learning.'

The childminder used their experience and knowledge of child development to create a positive learning environment where children's play was valued and respected. They responded enthusiastically to children's interests and engaged enthusiastically in their play. The childminder supported their interests very well and used these opportunities to promote language development, literacy and numeracy.

Children benefited from regular opportunities to engage in their local and wider community where they could meet with different groups of children at local groups. This provided opportunities for them to develop wider friendships and learn from other children.

Children also participated in walks to local nature and play parks and visit interesting places. This helped enrich their learning, develop life skills and form positive links with their community. A parent/carer told us, "My child attended play group with Linda every Thursday, attended the sand pit, plays outside in the garden, goes to the park and even told us about a day trip to the pet shop."

**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.

**Quality indicator 2.2: High quality facilities.**

Children were cared for in a welcoming environment which was well ventilated with plenty of natural light. Areas used by children were comfortably furnished, clean and well maintained. Soft furnishings helped create an inviting and homely setting for children and their families. A parent/carer commented, "It's a home from home environment."

The young child was relaxed, confident and comfortable in the setting. The childminder had created a safe, hygienic, child friendly environment where children's needs had been carefully considered. For example, safety gates were used to ensure their safety. We encouraged the childminder to give further consideration to the benefits of children having access to child sized furniture, for example, tables and chairs for mealtimes. This could help support good posture, physical comfort and children's independence.

Children had sufficient space to play. Toys and resources were clean, safe and well maintained. These were mostly easily accessible. The childminder agreed to give further consideration to the storage of toys for younger children, to support them in making choices and promote their independence. The childminder understood the benefits of children having access to loose parts and sensory play materials. We encouraged

them to continue to enhance these types of resources to promote more open-ended play experiences. This will help support children's curiosity, imagination and creativity.

Children had regular opportunities to play in the garden, which they could access independently from the lounge. Children's physical health was well supported through the use of a wide range of outdoor play equipment.

The childminder carried out visual checks prior to children arriving and throughout the course of the day, responding to anything that could pose a risk. Procedures for recording accidents and incidents were in place and the childminder was clear about when to notify the Care Inspectorate.

We considered the measures in place to minimise the spread of infection in the service. The childminder ensured areas were well ventilated and toys and equipment were cleaned regularly. Appropriate personal protective equipment was used when supporting children's personal care. Children were supported to wash their hands at key times, which helped them to learn good handwashing habits.

Children and their families personal information was securely stored and the childminder had registered with the Information Commissioner's Office to protect 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 impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

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

The childminder wanted the very best for the children and families who used their service and they were committed to the development of their service.

Important information about the service was shared with parents/carers, including aims and objectives, policies and procedures. This helped ensure they were well informed about the service, provided reassurance that there were procedures in place to keep children safe and supported them have clear expectations.

Keeping appropriate records supported the childminder to deliver a professional service. For example, clear details of children's attendance were recorded and appropriate insurance was in place. We noted that the service's registration certificate was outdated. The childminder has agreed to ensure that the current certificate is in place. We asked the childminder to undertake a review of some policies and procedures to ensure they reflect current best practice guidance. We also highlighted where some records could be updated to reflect appropriate frameworks.

The childminder had a friendly, welcoming and open approach with children and families, which supported the development of positive, trusting relationships. They understood the importance of working in partnership with parents/carers and involving them in their child's care. A parent/carer commented, "A positive aspect is that my child is very comfortable and relaxed in Linda's care. They have developed a secure and trusting relationship with them. As a result they enjoy their time spent there and enjoys all play opportunities."

Discussions at the beginning and end of the day and informal communications, for example providing daily updates, provided meaningful ways for them to influence the care provided. This helped ensure that parents/carers were included in their child's experiences. A parent/carer told us, "Linda asks for feedback on how I'm feeling about my child's care and if there's anything else they can do to support us."

The childminder engaged well with the inspection process and was keen to take forward any suggestions for improvement. They had taken positive steps to develop systems to support their approach to self-evaluation. They identified that a more focused approach would support meaningful reflection, help identify what is working well and discover what could be improved in the service.

Children and their families views were very important to the childminder. Questionnaires provided a more formal approach for them to share feedback on the service and provide suggestions for improvement. A parent/carer commented that the childminder "asked for my opinion and I filled in surveys." The childminder was very keen to explore additional ways to involve them in improving the quality of the service. This would help ensure children and families are included and contribute to the development of the service.

## 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/people, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

### Quality indicator 4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values.

The childminder remained passionate about their role. They were professional in their approach and they were well organised for this inspection.

The childminder cared very much about the children in their care and interactions were warm, kind and respectful. This ensured a happy, secure and supportive environment for children and their families. Parent/carers comments included, "My child is always happy to go to Linda's which makes me happy to leave them. I like that there isn't too many children and I know if my child is needing a cuddle, Linda is able to do so."

The childminder continued to be very committed to their professional development. They had undertaken a wide range of training courses to support and further develop their practice, including ensuring their skills in first aid and child protection were refreshed regularly. Training relating to children's individual needs had strengthened the childminder's understanding of providing more personalised care and support.

We encouraged the childminder to consider keeping a written record of any training attended to support self-reflection. This would help demonstrate how learning has impacted on the quality of children's experiences.

Meeting other childminders, being a member of the Scottish Childminding Association and accessing information from the Care Inspectorate HUB supported the childminder to keep up to date with new developments and explore topical issues.

The childminder was clear about their role in protecting children and knew who to contact for advice and support. They regularly attended training relating to this topic to ensure their knowledge and understanding was refreshed, which helped them keep children safe.

A parent/carer told us, "Linda is very supportive to parents and child. They stimulate kids with various activities and outings. Lovely professional service whilst also caring for all kids."

## 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?	4 - Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	4 - 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
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	5 - Very Good

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