

# Happy Hedgehogs Childminding Service

## Child Minding

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)  
Inspection completed on: 15 March 2017

**Service provided by:**  
Laidlaw, Gail

**Service provider number:**  
SP2015987221

**Care service number:**  
CS2015339721

## The service

### Introduction

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

The service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 09 December, 2015.

Requirements and recommendations

If we are concerned about some aspect of a service, or think it could do more to improve, we may make a recommendation or requirement.

A recommendation is a statement that sets out actions the care service provider should take to improve or develop the quality of the service, but where failure to do so will not directly result in enforcement. Recommendations are based on the National Care Standards, relevant codes of practice and recognised good practice.

A requirement is a statement which sets out what is required of a care service to comply with the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 and Regulations or Orders made under the Act or a condition of registration. Where there are breaches of Regulations, Orders or Conditions, a requirement must be made. Requirements are legally enforceable at the discretion of the Care Inspectorate.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. Getting it right for every child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child. They are: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators, we use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

The service is known as 'Happy Hedgehogs Childminding Service' and the service provider is Ms Laidlaw

'Happy Hedgehogs Childminding Service' is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16. This means there should be no more than 3 that are not yet attending primary school and no more than one under 12 months old. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

On the day of the inspection three minded children were present. Their ages ranged from five to nine years old.

Ms Laidlaw's two children were also present during the inspection and all children played well together.

The service is located within a wooded area off Mennieburn Road in the Perthshire village of Aberuthven and is accessed by a farm track into the wooded area.

The aims and objectives of the service are:

"To provide a safe, secure and happy home-based care service for children which will meet their needs and interests. I will ensure adequate risk assessments have been undertaken and documented ensuring the children are safe always. I will give each child the opportunity to enjoy a variety of activities both inside and out allowing them to use their imagination and discover new things through structured themed play as well as free play. Each child's independence will be promoted through encouragement and praise. Basic mannerisms will be encouraged within the group."

## What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following a short-announced inspection carried out by an inspector on the afternoon of 15 March 2017.

One parent and carer questionnaire was returned to us before the inspection and comments were positive. This will be reflected in the report.

During the inspection, we gathered evidence from a variety of sources including discussion around relevant policies and records. This included activities undertaken with the minded children, medication and children's personal plans. We observed how the childminder interacted with the children present. We considered the general environment and the equipment used in the provision of the childcare service.

## Views of people using the service

The children told us they liked coming to the service. They were observed to be happy and very at home in the service. Ms Laidlaw saw to the children's needs throughout the inspection.

We received one comment from a parent:

"Communication is very good with the childminder e.g. if children are being taken to the woods/river we will get a text to ask for wellies/appropriate clothing to be included. Children love the outdoors space and are encouraged to be outdoors".

## Self assessment

Every year all care services complete a 'Self-assessment' telling us how their Service is performing. We check to make sure this is accurate.

We received a completed Self-assessment document from the childminder. She gave us an outline of what she thought she did well and identified a few areas for improvement. We were satisfied with the information provided.

What the service did well

Ms Laidlaw has build secure attachments and trusting relationships with the children in her care.

Children had access to meaningful and quality outdoors experiences.

Children are happy and engaged in activities that interested them.

What the service could do better

Ms Laidlaw should develop her risk assessments to include any contact with animals that children have whilst in her care. This will ensure children have a good experience and ensure they are safe in the process.

We directed Ms Laidlaw to 'Setting the Table Nutritional Guidance and Food Standards' for early year's childcare providers in Scotland. This will provide her with further ideas on healthy snacks. We also mentioned the guidance 'My World Outdoors', The guidance shared good practice on how early years' services can provide play and learning wholly or partially outdoors.

We highlighted to Ms Laidlaw the new Scottish Child Minding Association Accredited Open Badges. This would recognise and support her to record further her Personal Development.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 – Good
Quality of environment	4 – Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 – Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered during our inspection we assessed this theme as good.  
Ms Laidlaw provided a service for after school children only through the school term.

On the day of the inspection we observed that children had been collected by Ms Laidlaw from school and on their arrival to the house they removed their coats and shoes and went to the kitchen for a healthy snack and a drink. The children chatted happily with one another telling each other what they had done that day at school. From our observation, they showed to be very much at home and relaxed in the service.

We noted that Ms Laidlaw ensured that all the children were included in conversations. She checked if they needed more snack or a drink. We could see that positive behaviour was encouraged and children were encouraged to respect each other's point of view. Her approach was caring and it was evident she had a very good relationship with the children.

We directed Ms Laidlaw to 'Setting the Table Nutritional Guidance and Food Standards' for early year's childcare providers in Scotland. This will provide her with further ideas on healthy snacks.

Some children were observed to enjoy the company of the family cat and this provided an opportunity for some children to engage with a pet and learn how to care for them. We noted that Ms Laidlaw monitored children's whereabouts throughout the visit when children were out of sight. This ensured they were safe and secure in the service.

Children were involved in planning and agreed activities and this was linked to their interest. Children usually played outdoors, however due to the inspection this did not happen on the day. Ms Laidlaw explained to the children she needed to be able monitor their play. The children accepted this and accessed a range of resources, such as, paper, pens, pencils, stickers and craft resources.

Children's personal plans were discussed with Ms Laidlaw and this was found to be satisfactory. These helped to make positive changes for some children in her care.

We saw a good selection of policies and procedures which included; administration of medication and records to document accidents and incidents. This helps to maintain good practice

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 4 - good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered during our inspection we assessed this theme as good.

The house is situated within a wooded area. This encouraged children to play outdoors and sometimes paddle in the nearby burn, under the supervision of the childminder. Children told us they enjoyed the outdoor life.

The house was clean and homely making a great environment for children.

We could see there were outbuildings that accommodated two dogs. Ms Laidlaw told us the children did not have access to the dogs. Children had the opportunity to see and know about the hens, cockerels and three horses located in an adjacent field. This provided children with rich learning experiences.

We noted that Ms Laidlaw was very particular in ensuring that children washed their hands when required helping to minimise the spread of infection.

We directed the childminder to the publication 'My World Outdoors', sharing good practice guidance which shows how early years' services can provide play and learning wholly or partially outdoors.

We requested that Ms Laidlaw include in her risk assessments the family pets and any other animals' children had contact with. This will help to support the childminders already good practice.

Overall, we found the children were happy in their environment.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 4 - good

## Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered during our inspection we assessed this theme as good.

This is the childminders first inspection. As part of her registration she attended Pre-Registration training. This covered many subjects, such as, child protection. The training raised her awareness of this topic.

Ms Laidlaw is a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) member. She received newsletters from the association helping to keep her up to date with changes to legislation and providing her with interesting articles to read.

Parents verbally let her know what they think about her service; however, Ms Laidlaw said she will continue to evaluate her service more formally with parents/carers and children's input.

We directed Ms Laidlaw to the new SCMA Accredited Open Badges. This is a digital record of accomplishment, skills, qualities or interest connected across informal and formal learning. This would support the childminder to record further her Personal Development.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 – good

**What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection**

## Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

**What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection**

## Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

## 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).

## Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

## Inspection and grading history

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.



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