

## Stay 'n' Play Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 9 May 2017

**Service provided by:**  
Irene Harle trading as Stay'n'Play  
Childcare

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003901275

**Care service number:**  
CS2003002791

## The service

### Introduction

Stay 'n' Play childminding has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since 2011. They are registered to provide a care service to a maximum of eight children under 16 at one time of whom no more than six are under 12 no more than three are not yet attending primary school and no more than one is under one. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The service is provided from the childminder's home, which is a modern house in the Monifieth area of Dundee. There is a large enclosed garden with a good off-road parking area for parents. The children have access to the lounge, kitchen and the toilet on the ground floor. The childminders home is within easy access to the local schools and amenities such as the library, community centre and various parks.

The aims of the service include:

- providing a child-centred home in which children will gain confidence in their intellectual, emotional, physical and social skills;
- providing children with a warm, secure and caring environment where they can learn, grow and develop.

### What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection which took place between 12.20pm and 15.20pm on 9 May 2017. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate Early Learning and Childcare Inspector.

We issued six questionnaires prior to the inspection and used information from these to inform the inspection.

During this inspection we spoke to the childminder, the children present and parents. We observed the care given by the childminder and looked at a number of documents including health and safety records, children's records and certificates of training.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). This is Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

### Views of people using the service

There were two children present during the inspection. The child was confident and vocal with the childminder and they told us they enjoyed coming to the childminders. The child had a wide range of activities and were engrossed in their play. Children told us:

- "I'm tidying up see it goes over here."
- "My favourite song is little bunnies, we sing it a lot."

We spoke with two parents who were very positive about all aspects of the service and happy with the quality of care their child received. They all commented on the opportunities for active play outside and the variety of activities that were available. Some comments from parents were:

- "My child's physical, emotional and social needs are all met at Stay n Play. Irene always structured activities/ experiences in such a way that my child engages, learns and develops through play. She has brought them on leaps and bounds! Activities are varied and change as my child develops. Appropriate support is given when required. Irene has been very supportive in keeping my child in a similar routine to that he is in at home i.e. Sleeps. This has been particularly helpful as my child has a baby sister. My child has continued at Stay n Play despite me being on maternity leave & Irene has really helped him with this change."
- "I have the opportunity to develop the service via daily what's app diary and face to face conversations. Termly scrap books and learning journey logs."
- "Irene has a vast range of outdoor toys and activities i.e. swings/slides/seesaw/footballs/goals. My child loves the sit on toys i.e. Cars and tractors. They enjoys water play and the sandpit. Also the mud kitchen. My child regularly 'helps' water plants. Last summer they grew their own sunflower which my child loved (an activity which will run again this year). Irene regularly takes children to the Barnhill rock gardens, Monifieth park, Monikie county park, Monifieth beach. Walks to and from bookbug at the library. Regular meetings outdoors with other childminders and children."
- "My child absolutely loves attending Stay n Play! We could not think of anywhere else we would rather have them. Every aspect of Irene's service is outstanding! My child's little sister will start in August when I return to work & I know the only challenge that will present itself will be convincing 2 children instead of 1 to come home with me."

## Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self assessment from the childminder. The childminder identified what they thought the service did well and gave examples of improvements they had made to their home and garden areas. The self assessment clearly identified some key areas they believed could be improved and showed how the service intended to do this.

## What the service did well

Children were provided with a safe and exciting environment. This was due to the childminders experience and training. The childminder used training and evaluation to ensure the service was providing excellent opportunities for children to develop.

## What the service could do better

The service could further develop questionnaires for parents to focus on specific areas for the service to develop.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support

6 - Excellent

Quality of environment	6 - Excellent
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	6 - Excellent

## Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder provided an excellent quality of care and support for children.

Children were able to access a range of resources that were based on their individual needs.

Children were able to develop their skills based on their needs and interests. This was achieved through the childminders knowledge of each individual child in their care. Care plans were implemented to ensure children's needs were recorded and acted on. The childminder used this information to provide activities children enjoyed and supported their development. The childminder regularly met with parent to review children's records to ensure they reflected children's current needs. The childminder prepared a developmental review prior to the meeting, which included children's views. Parents discussed their child's development with the childminder and agreed areas they would like their child to focus on, meaning parents were involved in their child's development

The childminder had an excellent understanding of national child protection guidance, signs and behaviours and who to contact if there was any concerns. The childminder was also using their knowledge of GIRFEC to support child development practice, ensuring all children were equally supported. The childminder used training to gain specialist knowledge that benefited the development of children in their care. This directly benefited outcomes for children allowing them to be achieving through a wide range of activities specific to their interests. For example the childminder was incorporating language and numeracy in each activity, developing specific areas for each individual child.

Children were safe and healthy through the childminders knowledge and understanding of best practice guidance for food handling and infection control. The childminder also provided healthy and nutritious meals for children which were chosen and prepared by children. Children worked on a project book of which the focus was snack and healthy eating. Children of all ages were able to choose the menu for snack each week and each week a different child was offered the opportunity to be the 'Lunch Chef.' Children really enjoyed the responsibility of being the 'Lunch Chef' and enjoyed learning how to keep themselves and their friends safe and healthy.

### Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

### Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 6 - excellent

## Quality of environment

## Findings from the inspection

The childminder provided an excellent quality of environment for children.

Children were able to take part in activities that were of interest to them and were easily accessible allowing children to be independent. For example children were playing with playdough which they had asked to play with. The childminder developed the activity introducing utensils and loose parts to allow children to explore through play making the activity personal to each child's interests. The childminder added depth to children's learning through developing activities to be more sensory based. For example the childminder added dry corn to the farm set to allow children to transport the corn using tractors and to pretend to feed the animals. Children really enjoyed this activity and enjoyed discussing the textures and sounds the corn made. To ensure all children had the ability to choose resources and activities, the childminder had developed the use of photo books to allow younger children to choose resources they were interested in.

Children had space to explore the outdoor environment and to play with their friends. In the garden area children had access to ball games, swings and climbing apparatus. Children accessed local resources like the beach, parks and community groups on a daily basis. This allowed children to enjoy both free play and structured play that focused on specific development areas. Children's views were respected, they were able choose to play on their own or with others. This supported children to develop social skills and be independent.

Children were able to explore their capabilities safely in the environment provided by the childminder. This was achieved through the implementation of risk assessments and awareness of children's abilities. The childminder used their observations skills and knowledge of each child to provide excellent support and supervision during activities.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 6 – excellent

## Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder provided an excellent quality of management and leadership.

Children were cared for by a well-trained and confident childminder. The childminder regularly accessing training

that focused on the development of their service, this supported the childminder to be confident she was providing a high quality service that met the needs of the children in her care. They had accessed training on areas like child development and play development, which had directly affected the opportunities for children in their service. Through the training the childminder was able to develop the structure of the session to allow children to be more independent and choose their own opportunities for play. The childminder reflected on training attended to ensure training was effective and improved outcomes for children.

The childminder had completed one of the SCMA and SSSC open badges for providing best support for younger children. This was achieved through the childminder submitting an evaluation of their service to highlight how children had benefitted from the improvements made to the service. The childminder had a clear development plan that was being followed and highlighted areas of improvement that we observed as being met during the inspection. For example in the development plan the childminder discussed the need to involve younger children in the development of the service, which the childminder had achieved through the project and photo books allowing all children to be a part of the service.

Parents were involved in their child's learning through regular communication with the childminder. The childminder spoke with parents to find out what method of communication they preferred when being updated of their child's development. The childminder acted on this and now uses what's app to contact parents to inform them of their child's day and developments they have made. The childminder had created a Facebook page for the service which encouraged parents to become involved in the service. Facebook was used to share improvements in the service and developments their children had made during the session. Parent's commented on finding the Facebook page useful for keeping up to date with the development of their child and improvements in the service.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 6 - excellent

**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

Date	Type	Gradings	
5 Mar 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	6 - Excellent
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
17 Jun 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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