

# Amanda's Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 30 May 2017

**Service provided by:**  
Paterson, Amanda

**Service provider number:**  
SP2012983703

**Care service number:**  
CS2012309336

## The service

### Introduction

Amanda Paterson (referred to as the childminder throughout this report) is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 7 children at any one time under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than 6 are under the age of 12 years and 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one will be under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The childminder provides this service from her home in Balerno. Children are able to spend time in the living room and garden. They are able to use the upstairs family bathroom.

The aims of the service are to, 'provide a warm, caring and friendly setting for children to grow and develop safely and to feel valued and respected'.

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. GIRFEC 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 GIRFEC. 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.

### What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection visit carried out on Tuesday 30 May 2017.

At this inspection we gathered evidence from various sources including:

- Discussion with the childminder
- Looking at areas of the home used for childminding
- Reading children's records
- Interacting with the one minded child present during the inspection
- Reading policies.

### Views of people using the service

The minded child was very relaxed and happy with the childminder.

Parents were complimentary of the service the childminder provided to them and their children. It was clear they were particularly pleased with the relationship their child had with the childminder, the

activities on offer, the childminder's caring manner and the information they received about their child. Their comments included:

'Amanda is a kind, outgoing, friendly lady who engages and interacts really well with the children'.

'Amanda always consults and gives plenty of notice if there is a change or improvement to be made. Usually this is done verbally or through memos or her newsletter'.

'We review contact details, health issues, allergies etc on a form several times in the year. Amanda is very open to discussions and will ask our views before making any changes'.

'Amanda is great at keeping up communication and listening to and interacting with us'.

'Amanda is very approachable. Amanda has a clearly defined complaints procedures which would be followed if needed'.

## Self assessment

We received a fully completed self assessment from the childminder before the inspection took place.

## What the service did well

Children have formed strong attachments with the childminder. She provides a warm and secure environment where children can feel safe to explore and develop a strong sense of belonging. The childminder has an in-depth knowledge of each child and values them as unique which results in her service being one where each child is nurtured, respected and included.

## What the service could do better

In order to maintain her grades the childminder should continue to look for ways develop her existing positive practice.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

## Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder valued the partnership she had established with parents and she maintained very good lines of communication in order to promote the best outcomes for children. Feedback in our questionnaires confirmed

parents were appreciative of the relationship they had formed with the childminder.

The childminder promoted healthy eating and provided children with an understanding of what was good for them. Children enjoyed nutritious snacks which were devised in consultation with children and parents to take account of likes, dislikes and dietary needs. Drinking water was freely available to ensure that children remained hydrated. Children's health was enhanced as they enjoyed daily outside play in nearby parks and playing fields. The childminder's commitment to offering outdoor learning meant that children participated in activities such as den building, tree climbing and fire pit building. This meant that children were given a chance to engage freely in adventurous play and therefore quickly learn to assess their own skills.

Children's interests and needs were at the forefront of the childminder's planning. She understood the importance of nurturing children and valuing them as individuals with their own unique personality, individual needs and aspirations. As a result, children were involved in the planning of activities and experiences that were meaningful to them, nurtured their creativity and ensured their developmental needs were consistently met.

Children's personal plans were written under the eight indicators in SHANARRI and demonstrated how the childminder intended to support children to reach their potential. This showed her knowledge of each child's personality, traits and needs as well as an understanding of her responsibility to meet these needs.

The childminder implemented clear and consistent boundaries which helped children to self regulate and learn to respect each other and negotiate. The childminder interacted positively with the children, acknowledging success and building self-esteem by praising their ideas and achievements.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 5 - very good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

Both parents who completed our questionnaire spoke favourably of the environment on offer. They told us, 'The environment is well planned and welcoming. I have no concerns re safety. The variety of toys etc is excellent' and 'My child is always stimulated and encouraged in outdoor play and craft activities amongst other things. The activities are well thought out and appear to take into account all ages'.

Children were thriving in the warm, welcoming and homely environment which was organised well to enable them to make choices and develop their independence.

Within a safe and secure environment children learned to keep themselves safe and how to identify potential hazards indoors and outdoors. They learned the concept of road safety through conversations instigated by the childminder when walking from school.

The childminder used a sickness policy to ensure that the children were protected from illness and infection. She has attended first aid training, therefore, she was aware of how to care for children in the event of an accident.

The childminder had effective procedures in place for the administration of medicine and for the recording of accidents and incidents. Children were further protected because the childminder had an appropriate understanding about safeguarding procedures to ensure that children were monitored and kept safe. Records relating to children's individual health and safety were maintained.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 5 - very good

## Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder was motivated and enthusiastic in her work. Her experience, commitment, reflective nature and the ability to be self-critical meant she had capacity for continuous improvement. She demonstrated a very good knowledge of childcare and child development and kept up to date with best practice in child care through a wide variety of ways such as reading the Care Inspectorate Care News and obtaining information sent through the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA).

The childminder showed a commitment to and an understanding of the benefits of training courses. She had attended many training courses on subjects such as Building the Ambition, Recognising Bullying behaviour, first aid and Autism. She had also carried out research on a variety of subjects such as childhood illnesses and conditions. All of this showed a dedication to her own learning and meeting the needs of the children.

All policies and procedures were shared with parents so that they were informed about her practice. The childminder made it clear to parents that she was very keen to hear their ideas and feedback on she could improve her service. Our questionnaires indicated that both parents were supportive of the service. They agreed that their childminder had involved them and their child in developing the service, for example asking for ideas and feedback.

The childminder had built very good relationships with the parents and ensured information was shared with

them regularly to keep them fully informed about their child's progress. Parents comments of the childminder being 'very approachable, kind, outgoing and friendly' confirmed they were happy with the service provided.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very 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

Date	Type	Grading	
14 Jun 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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