

# Marr, James Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 19 April 2017

**Service provided by:**

**Service provider number:**  
SP2010978455

**Care service number:**  
CS2010251163

## The service

### Introduction

James Marr has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since 2011, and is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 4 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of 4 will under 12, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. The numbers are inclusive of the children of the childminder's own family.

Other conditions unique to the service are.

- The parts of the premises not to be used are the bedrooms on the upper floor of the property and the kitchen.
- Overnight service will not be provided.

The service is provided from the childminder's home, which is a modern house in the city 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 childminder's home is within easy access to the local schools and amenities such as the library, community centre and various parks.

In his statement of aims and objectives, Mr Marr states that he aims to provide a service which is relaxed, safe, playful, creative, healthy, educational and flexible to individual needs. We looked at these elements during the inspection.

### What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection which took place between 11.30am and 2.30pm on 19 April 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. Children were confident and vocal with the childminder and they told us they enjoyed coming to the childminder's. Children had a wide range of activities and were engrossed in their play. Some of the comments from children were:

- "This is my favourite place to play. (Child showed us around the garden area.)"

- "These are my sheets which help me learn, and this is my folder to show my mum."
- "I go to school soon and James has been helping me get ready for the big school. We have been doing counting and writing."

During the inspection we spoke with one parent who was very positive about all aspects of the service and happy with the quality of care their child received.

Some comments from the parent were:

- "I feel that my child's needs are fully met when they are in James' care. The greatest testimony I can offer in this regard occurs each morning when my child asks; "Am I going to see Jim and Kelly today?". My child is always happy to go to James and it is not uncommon to have a struggle with my child when it is time to leave and go home. James has definitely made a positive contribution to my child's development with plenty of one-on-one and group interaction. My child plays number/letter games and does drawing exercises that are paying dividends as he loves to read books and competently recite the alphabet and numbers 1-20 and back from 20-1. To conclude, we are delighted that each day my child is happy and we can see their continued development on a daily basis".
- "I share emails and text messages with James and Kelly on a regular basis where we discuss my child's care and our expectations. I haven't needed to suggest any improvements to the service because I am fully satisfied; however, knowing James as I do, I am sure if I did have any comments on the service then he would take them on board and make an effort to implement my suggestion."
- "My child, and the other kids, have frequent access to the garden and also get the opportunity to explore the local community. My child often tells us what he has been doing each day and this usually involves some time in the garden. The children have access to a play house, bikes, scooters and a paddling pool if the weather permits. Last year my child and some other children went to the botanic gardens for the afternoon which he really enjoyed and we received some images of him running around having a great time. My child also has frequent visits to the local library which they love and they come home with the books to read. We really enjoy this because it creates a common thread and interlinks my child's care with his home life rather than two separate elements of their life."

## Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self assessment from the childminder. The childminder identified what they thought the service did well but did not give examples of areas for development. We discussed the importance of focusing on areas to develop which will develop opportunities for children.

## What the service did well

The childminder provided warm and homely environment for children to enjoy. Children's learning was developed through the childminders understanding of each child's individual needs.

## What the service could do better

The childminder could formalise observations of children's development. This will allow for the childminder to create detailed next steps to further develop children's learning. The childminder should also attend first aid training to ensure children are safe.

## 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	3 - Adequate

## Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder provided a good standard of care for children attending their service

Children were settled and happy in the childminders care. Children enjoyed the range of activities on offer and the freedom to select resources and activities that were of interest to them. Children were able to sleep when they were tired. The childminder provided covers and blankets for children to keep them comfortable. However children were sleeping on the couch which was not comfortable for children over long periods of time. Sleep mats and a quiet comfortable space would provide children with a more appropriate place to sleep and rest **(see recommendation 1)**.

The childminder demonstrated a good knowledge of each child and used this to effectively meet children's individual needs. The information was recorded and tracked through children's care plans. These were updated every six months to ensure children's most up to date needs were logged. The childminder had children in their care with English as a second language. The childminder used communication with parents and worksheets to support children to develop their speech in both the home and childminders environment. To ensure children are achieving their potential, the childminder should develop observations to allow children's progress to be logged and acted on **(see recommendation 2)**.

The childminder works with local schools and agencies to ensure consistency between professionals. This enabled the childminder to provide consistent care for the children and supported children to have their needs met and understood by everyone involved in the child's life. Children in the service were achieving and nurtured allowing them to meet milestones and to be prepared for school.

The childminder had undertaken child protection training and had a good understanding of the behaviours that children may display if in need of support. The childminder also had a robust child protection policy in place. This provided clear guidance for the childminder and parents in the event of any child protection concerns.

### Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

### Number of recommendations: 2

1. To ensure children are comfortable and safe during sleep time, the childminder should review sleeping procedures in their service.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the Age of 16. Standard 3: Health and Wellbeing.

2. To ensure children are supported in their development the childminder should ensure regular observations and next steps are used to develop children's learning.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the Age of 16. Standard 5: Quality of Experience.

**Grade:** 4 - good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder provided a good quality of environment to children attending their service.

The childminder provided children with a comfortable environment that was clean, warm and easily accessible. This allowed children to feel at home and relax with their friends. Children were able to access a playroom with resources that were easily accessible to them, enabling them to make choices and be independent. Children were supported to achieve their potential through the wide range of activities offered that challenged them. Children were engaged and having fun throughout the session, with children being able to have space to play on their own or to play with friends.

There were good opportunities for children to be active. The playroom had free flow access to the garden allowing children to explore the outdoors in their own time. The garden area was full of flowers and various areas where children could explore nature. Children also went on regular outings to the local park where they were able to play on apparatus that challenge their cognitive skills.

The service was safe and well-maintained. However the nappy bin in the bathroom was located next to the hand towel for children to dry their hands. This presented an infection control risk for children in the service (**see recommendation 1**). Meals were provided by parents and children were able to make their own snack encouraging them to be independent. Children were encouraged to wash their hands before eating to keep themselves safe

The childminder had a range of policies and procedures in place to keep children safe. There were also risk assessments in place; however these had not been updated to reflect best practice. For example risk assessments did not take into account latest infection control guidance (**see recommendation 2**). When children were playing in the garden they were able to access risk. For example children were able to ride bikes and explore the plants and nature around them. The childminder ensured children were safe through supervision and support when needed.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. The childminder should move the nappy bin to ensure infection control is maintained.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the Age of 16. Standard 2: A Safe Environment.

2. To ensure policies are reviewed in line with current best practice and guidance, the childminder should ensure policies are regularly reviewed.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the Age of 16. Standard 2: A Safe Environment.

Grade: 4 – good

## Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder managed and led the service to a good standard.

The childminder was aware of the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) framework but was not implementing it formally. We asked the childminder to further develop their knowledge of GIRFEC and to implement it in the service to further improve children's wellbeing. The childminder had attended child protection training and was using it to keep children in their care safe. The childminder had a recommendation from the previous inspection to complete first aid training. This had not been met. This meant the childminder did not have the appropriate skills to effectively deal with an accident or medical situation and potentially placed children at risk. We have made a requirement (**see requirement 1**). To develop their practice and understanding the childminder should aim to attend training that is specific to the needs of children in their care. This will allow the childminder to meet children's needs and to develop outcomes for children.

There is currently no self-evaluation plan in place to allow development of the service to provide better outcomes for children. The childminder should develop their self-evaluation to log input from parents and children and to evidence the development of the service. This will allow children to be responsible for the development of their environment and learning (**see recommendation 1**).

The childminder was emailing and texting parents to keep them up to date with the progress of their child. The childminder also emailed parents for feedback on activities carried out in the service. Parents had responded well

to communication with the childminder and were making suggestions for activities which were being acted on by the childminder.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 1

1. The childminder must attend appropriate first aid training.

This is in order to comply with: The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 SSI 114 Regulation 4 (2) Welfare of Users.

**Timescale:** 2 weeks from receipt of this report.

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 1

1. To ensure the service is developing to meet the needs of children the childminder should ensure they highlight areas of development in their self assessment.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the Age of 16. Standard 13: Improving The Service.

**Grade:** 3 – adequate

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

## Previous requirements

### Requirement 1

Mr Marr must review his procedures for administering medicines to include parental consent forms. This is in order to comply with: The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 SSI 114 Regulation 4 (2) Welfare of Users. Timescale: Immediately on receipt of this report.

**This requirement was made on 23 January 2013.**

### Action taken on previous requirement

The childminder had sourced the appropriate permissions for children.

**Met – within timescales**

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

### Previous recommendations

#### Recommendation 1

Mr Marr should consider ways to observe and record children's progress and development and to link those observations to activity planning. He should also ensure that any developmental progress records are routinely shared with parents. National Care Standards: Early Education and Childcare at the age of 16; Standard 4: engaging the children Standard 5: quality of experience Standard 6: support and development

**This recommendation was made on 23 January 2013.**

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

Not Met - The childminder had not addressed this recommendation so this has been carried through to the 2017 inspection.

#### Recommendation 2

Mr Marr should consider providing a room thermometer in the playroom to monitor the temperature, particularly during the winter months.(met) He should also ensure that risk assessments are reviewed to reflect any additional heating sources. National Care Standards: Early Education and Childcare at the age of 16; Standard 2: A safe environment Standard 3: Health and wellbeing.

**This recommendation was made on 13 January 2013.**

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

Not Met - The childminder had not addressed this recommendation so this has been carried through to the 2017 inspection.

#### Recommendation 3

Mr Marr should attend training in Child Protection and familiarise himself with the principles of GIRFEC. (Getting It Right For Every Child) This is in order to comply with: National Care Standards: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 3: Health and well-being Standard 14: Well managed service

**This recommendation was made on 23 January 2013.**

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

MET - attended 3/15 through online course.

#### Recommendation 4

Recommendation 4. Mr Marr should access first-aid training in the coming year . This is in order to comply with: National Care Standards: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16: Standard 3: Health and well-being Standard 14: Well managed service.

**This recommendation was made on 23 January 2013.**



**Action taken on previous recommendation**

Not Met - The childminder had not addressed this recommendation so this has been carried through to the 2017 inspection as a requirement.

**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	
17 Jan 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
21 Apr 2011	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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