

## Howie, Lyn

### Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 11 July 2017

**Service provided by:**  
Howie, Lyn

**Service provider number:**  
SP2007965181

**Care service number:**  
CS2007151829

## 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).

Lyn Howie is referred to as the childminder in this report and is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of eight children at any one time under the age of 16, 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 the childminder's family.

Stuart Howie is a named assistant.

Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate. Overnight care is not provided.

The service is provided from the childminder's home in a residential area in Armadale, Bathgate. Children have access to the ground floor including the kitchen/dining room, sitting room and toilet. There is an enclosed garden area to the rear of the property. The service is close to local schools, shops and public transport routes.

The aims and objectives of the service include the following.:

"To provide a happy and safe environment for the children to grow and develop into their own person. I also aim to make each process of learning fun and encourage each child to participate to the best of their ability."

## What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following a short notice inspection that took place on the morning of 11 July 2017.

We gathered evidence from discussion with the childminder, examining relevant records, observing the care given to minded children and observing the premises, toys and equipment. We talked with the children present during the inspection. We discussed our findings with the childminder.

As requested by us, the service sent us an annual return and a self assessment document before the inspection.

Three care standards questionnaires were returned to us by parents before the inspection.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), 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 services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

## Views of people using the service

The minded children present during the inspection were very comfortable in the childminder's care and could easily ask for things they wanted. The children were happy and confident in the environment. The children took a full part in the inspection and told us they were happy to be cared for by the childminder. They told us what it was like to attend the service, about a variety of activities they were involved in and about projects they had planned.

Parents who returned questionnaires told us they felt involved in the service and that they were very satisfied with the quality of care provided for their children. They described the childminder as "amazing" providing an "excellent quality of care" and that they are "lucky to have a place with her".

## Self assessment

A self assessment was submitted to us as requested. The information provided identified areas of strength and some areas for development.

## What the service did well

The childminder kept the children safe and healthy. We observed that the childminder's care of the children was nurturing and affectionate and that having fun was important.

A particular strength of the service was the high level of involvement the children had in planning their own care and leading their own learning within a mutually respectful, exciting and challenging environment. Also a particular strength was the emphasis on outdoor play and learning. Children present during the inspection fully engaged with the inspectors and painted a clear picture of the excellent quality of service they enjoyed.

## What the service could do better

The childminder should continue with her plans to develop the service and the outdoor focus.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	6 - Excellent
Quality of staffing	6 - Excellent
Quality of management and leadership	6 - Excellent

## Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

We found the childminder was performing to an excellent standard in the areas covered by this statement.

During the inspection, we observed the childminder to be nurturing, warm and affectionate towards the minded children. Her commitment and dedication to the children and their families in her role of childminder over a number of years, had a very positive impact on children's development.

The childminder worked in partnership with the children and their parents to identify children's own ambitions and areas they want to develop. This exceptional practice supported children's sense of achievement and self-worth.

The childminder provided an environment where fun underpinned day-to-day life. The children told us about one strategy which was 'a minute of silly' each day, an opportunity for the children to remember that having fun was very important.

Children were knowledgeable about the wellbeing indicators and used these to help them to understand themselves and their peers. They explained to us how they give each other opportunities to succeed and how they were aware of and sensitive to, others feelings. This excellent practice supported children to be responsible and included.

The childminder offered an excellent variety of interesting, challenging and exciting activities that promoted confidence building and had a positive impact on children's development. Care plans were maintained and children were fully involved in developing these.

The childminder used an imaginative range of methods to inform children and parents, involve them in the service and to share updates about day to day life in the service. This meant that people using the service were respected and included in making decisions about their care. For example, a private Facebook page showed videos and photographs of children's activities and achievements. A questionnaire based on the wellbeing indicators, gave opportunity for parents to complete these with their child and then comment on the quality of the service. Floor books were used to help children plan, cost and commission projects.

Children were fully involved in planning all activities and used photographs to re-visit their achievements and further develop their knowledge and skills.

These excellent strategies meant that children's and parent's views and preferences were valued and informed activity planning and evaluations.

The childminder worked with other agencies and parents to support children's well-being. She was knowledgeable about issues around child protection and had supported children to learn together about different areas of child protection and about how to keep safe.

The childminder had worked with the children to agree healthy food choices using 'Setting the Table' (<http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/21130-Setting>). She had also shared this document with parents. This excellent practice supported children's to be healthy.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 6 – excellent

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

Engaging with the environment and outdoor play was a central feature of the service and children were positively encouraged to take part in outdoor activities and enjoy new experiences as part of the childminding day. Children were encouraged to learn about their environment and about being responsible. Children continued to visit the community garden to grow and care for vegetables. They supported each other with challenges and celebrated each other's successes.

Regular opportunity to take part in an exciting range of physical activities and to explore the natural environment, had resulted in positive change in the children's wellbeing.

The children were very pleased to share their activity plan for the summer school holiday. This included outings to the swimming pool, the local skate park and a local country park. Children had been to the indoor climbing centre and planned to return there. Some activities took place with other children and childminders, giving children the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends.

Children had planned, costed and built a mud kitchen. They evaluated the project once complete. The children showed us floor books and photographs of their projects and activities and described the enjoyment they had from a trip to the local burn. They told us how they had worked together to build a dam to help keep the younger children safe. These activities supported the children to learn leadership skills and to cooperate with others. Children were included in discussion about risk and how to manage this, for example, road safety and when using play equipment and playing at the burn. This excellent practice meant that children were learning skills about keeping themselves and others safe. Children were respected and their opinions were valued.

The childminder told us about plans in place for her and the children to attend 'Fire Starter' training with the local authority. She felt it was important to include the children in this training with her and to receive a certificate for their learning and attendance. This ethos of inclusion demonstrated the excellent practice in this service in relation to valuing children's contribution and involvement in designing their environment.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 6 – excellent

## Quality of staffing

### Findings from the inspection

The assistant is the husband of the childminder. He works in the child care sector and his presence in the childminding service has added to the quality of children's experiences and provided a valuable support to the childminder. He was not present during the inspection.

The assistant took a full part in the day-to-day service, he collected children from school and nursery, took part in outings and activities and worked in partnership with parents regarding the care of the children.

The children spoke affectionately about the assistant and it was clear he brought a degree of fun and excitement to their day. They told us about his involvement in helping them build the mud kitchen and about their recent "push-up" exercise challenge.

Parents were positive about the impact the assistant had on the quality of service provided. One parent told us the following in the Care Standards Questionnaire:

"Totally happy with the service provided. (childminder and assistant) provide excellent quality of care and huge support for (children). I feel lucky to have this extra network that my children can rely on."

The assistant has gained SVQ3 in Health and Social Care and has attended further training such as GIRFEC, Child Protection, infection control and also holds a current First Aid certificate. Training attended also included play strategy and crisis management.

Along side the childminder, he promotes and supports innovation and creativity in the childminding service. The assistant is part of the local child minding network. He also brings new ideas and views to the service from his experiences in care work.

The childminder routinely discussed practice issues with the assistant to ensure they are in agreement about best practice in meeting the children's needs. He routinely took part in discussions about how to develop and evaluate the service. His commitment and contribution added an exceptional element of support and fun to the children's experiences.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 - excellent

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder maintained positive relationships with parents and children who used the service, worked in partnership with them and consulted with them routinely in a variety of ways. She enabled children to discuss, plan and review their time with her and ensured children's changing needs were central to her plans for development and continuous improvement of the service.

She used the wellbeing indicators as well as a range of good practice documents such as Pre Birth to Three and Building the Ambition to develop, review and evaluate the service.

This excellent practice meant people who used the service were included and their opinions were valued.

The childminder plans to complete a BA in Childhood Practice, building on the HND achieved this year. She has used this knowledge and learning to develop her service and to support improved outcomes for individual children.

The childminder used the Care Inspectorate website and other on-line sources to support her to keep up to date with current best practice and legislation. For example, she had made very good use of the document 'My World Outdoor' for a project she undertook for her HND qualification and used the document 'Setting the Table' to support children's good health.

The childminder was a member of a local childminder's group. Currently she was taking a leading role with other childminders, to plan and develop an outdoor learning childminding group to further encourage children's engagement with their environment. This innovative plan demonstrated the childminder's enthusiasm and commitment to enhancing experiences and opportunities for minded children.

The childminder kept accurate attendance records for the children and this showed she was working within the condition of her registration regarding numbers of children attending the service. She was aware of the records she was required to keep and her responsibility to maintain these.

## 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	
25 Aug 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	6 - Excellent 5 - Very good 6 - Excellent 5 - Very good
14 Aug 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed
25 Nov 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed
5 Mar 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good Not assessed 5 - Very good Not assessed
27 Feb 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed

## To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

## Contact us

Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

## Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.