

# Childminding By Kerry Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 6 March 2018

**Service provided by:**

**Service provider number:**  
SP2012983407

**Care service number:**  
CS2012307516

## The service

### Introduction

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 3 July 2012.

The childminder is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six 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 old. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The childminder is currently providing a childminding service from her own home in a quiet residential area of Newtonhill. This is within easy walking distance of the school, nursery and park. Children had access to rooms on the ground floor including the playroom, bathroom, and the childminder's garden. Aims of the service included "creating a homely environment that encouraged children to develop self-esteem and confidence".

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 by 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 SHANNARI wellbeing indicators.

### What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection, which took place between 10:45 and 14:35 on 6 March 2018. We gave feedback to the childminder on the same day. Two Care Inspectorate early learning and childcare inspectors carried out the inspection.

During this inspection, we spoke with the childminder. We also looked at:

- the childminder's practice and engagement
- the environment
- children's records
- training certificates
- policies and procedures
- the resources available
- insurance documents.

### Views of people using the service

One minded child was present during the inspection but was too young to give any views on the service. He presented as being contented and relaxed with the childminder.

Two parents returned questionnaires to us. Both strongly agreed that they were happy with the overall quality of the service. Comments included:

"Kerry is very approachable. She is wonderful, caring and hardworking."

"I like that they take wee trips to local parks and play centres."

"Kerry offers a safe, happy environment and considers their needs always."

"Plenty of homemade soups, pasta and more."

## Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a completed self-assessment from the childminder. The childminder gave examples of what she did to include parents in the service, and how she supported children to be healthy. The self-assessment did not provide evidence of how she plans to make improvements. The childminder should include any areas for development that will support the progression of her service.

## What the service did well

The childminder supported children who used her service well. She worked with parents to ensure she was meeting the needs of individual children in her care. She tailored her communication methods to suit individual parent's preferences, encouraging their inclusion and involvement.

## What the service could do better

The childminder should develop her skills and knowledge through training or other learning opportunities. She should consider ways that she can use current best practice guidance to help her evaluate her service. This will support her to make improvements whilst considering how this can positively affect children and their families.

## 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 had a nice nature with the minded child present during the inspection. She was nurturing, encouraging and friendly. The child appeared happy and settled in her company, indicating that he felt safe. The childminder had a good knowledge of children. She gave examples of where children were in relation to their stage of development and how she supported this. This encouraged children to achieve.

Personal plans in place documented children's information, including likes, dislikes, developmental goals and routine preferences. Six-monthly checks took place to ensure that the information held by the childminder was up to date. This supported her to meet children and families changing needs.

The childminder supported parents with individual children's needs and conversed well with them daily. She

ensured that she was clear about what parents were communicating in order to meet their child's health and wellbeing.

The childminder displayed a good knowledge of child protection. She knew whom to contact if she had any concerns about a child in her care. This contributed towards children's safety and wellbeing.

We discussed the use of chronologies with the childminder. The implementation of these will assist her in assessing children's wellbeing needs and support her in providing the right level of care at the right time. A link to the guidance can be found below:

<http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/468617/practice-guide-to-chronologies-2017.pdf>

Meals and snacks offered by the childminder supported healthy options. Examples included soups, pasta, sandwiches and fruit, encouraging children's health and wellbeing. The childminder took into consideration the needs of any children who had dietary requirements. She discussed how she supported parents in meeting the specific needs of these children, including the foods offered and how she prioritised children's health and parental wishes.

The childminder had a good knowledge of medication procedures, and gave examples of what information she would require from parents in the event that medication needed to be administered. This contributed to children's safety. Her medication policy however, did not reflect her current practice. Details, including the reason for medication were not present in the policy. The childminder should ensure that she updates this in line with her current practice.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 4 - good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The playroom in the childminder's home was clean and well maintained. Children had safe options for sleeping and had opportunities to relax. Resources were easily accessible and included dressing up clothes, puzzles, construction and small world toys. A table within the playroom used for crafts and drawing, encouraged children's creativity. Children chose resources, which supported their independence and respected their right to choice.

There was a lack of open-ended, natural and real life resources within the playroom. This limited children's imaginary play. We discussed 'Building the Ambition' with the childminder. The use of this document would support children's ongoing learning and development, particularly in relation to their creativity and imaginary skills. (See link below.)

<http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/201173/national-practice-guidance-on-early-learning-2014.pdf>

Regular opportunities occurred for children to play outdoors. The childminder's garden was a good size, where children could be active on trikes, cars and fixed wooden play equipment. Examples of other activities she had provided outside included the use of a sand tray for rice and pasta play. This encouraged children's sensory development.

Children accessed local community centres as well as participating in outings to the park and soft play, helping to keep them active and supporting their inclusion in activities. The use of best practice guidance would support the childminder in enhancing outdoor experiences for the children. Loose parts such as boxes, pots, pans and sticks would encourage and promote children's problem solving and curiosity development, whilst developing their understanding of the natural world. Links can be found below.

<http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/405223/loose-parts-play-toolkit.pdf>

<http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/279348/my-world-outdoors-sharing-good-practice-in-how-early-years-services-can-provide-play-and-learning-wholly-or-partially-outdoors.pdf>

Children had opportunities for exposure to risk whilst being kept safe. The childminder had a good knowledge of risk, and supported children in assessing this whilst outdoors. Children were aware of boundaries in place, and knew what the childminder expected of them. This encouraged children to be responsible.

Nappy changing was observed. This was in line with current best practice and supported health and wellbeing. The childminder's policy however did not state that gloves should be removed after changing a nappy. She should update this to reflect her current practice. We also suggested encouraging children to wash their hands after a nappy change. This will support children's health and wellbeing.

## 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

Opportunities existed for parents to be involved in the childminder's service. Examples included discussions, questionnaires, online chats and diaries. Communication methods tailored to suit the needs of individual parents enhanced their involvement in the service. Children were able to choose what they wanted to do whilst in the care of the childminder. She encouraged them to access resources freely and independently.

The childminder was registered with the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and attended a local childminding group. She found attendance at this group useful as links to training were established. This gave her opportunities to source training that would support her in enhancing her knowledge and skills. The childminder also discussed how the group could support her with making improvements to her service, for example in extending art and craft activities. Although the childminder was not yet implementing these, she could see how the extension of such activities would improve the experiences of children.

The childminder had attended core training such as food hygiene and first aid. This supported children's health and wellbeing. Child protection training recommended at the childminder's last inspection however had not been achieved. We recommended that she attend child protection training regularly to support her to keep her knowledge up to date. This will contribute to the continued safety and wellbeing of children. **See recommendation 1.**

Discussions with the childminder identified that some additional training was sourced and undertaken. We could not see how this training had helped to develop the childminders practice. We suggested that she continue to source appropriate training where possible to build on her knowledge and skills, while supporting the improvement of her service.

The childminder was not yet using best practice to evaluate or make improvements to her service, and lacked knowledge in relation to these. We suggested using documents such as 'Building the Ambition', 'Your Childminding Journey' and 'My Childminding Experience' to support her with this. (See links below.) Further use of best practice will assist the childminder in improving the quality of experiences she provides for the children as well as furthering the improvement of her practice and service overall. **See recommendation 2.**

<http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/582717/my-childminding-experience.pdf>  
<http://www.childmindingjourney.scot/>

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 2

1. In order to ensure the continued safety and wellbeing needs of the children in her care, the childminder should undertake child protection training to keep her knowledge up to date.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Standard 3: Health and Wellbeing

2. To support positive outcomes for children and the progression of her service, the childminder should continue to develop her knowledge and skills via training and through the use of best practice guidance.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Standard 14: Well-managed Service

**Grade:** 3 - adequate

## 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

#### Recommendation 1

Children's records should be updated at least every six months to show that they had changed and developed and any changes in routines. These changes should use information gained from discussions from parents and observations by the childminder.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Standard 14: Well-managed Service

**This recommendation was made on 18 June 2013.**

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder was now reviewing children's information every six months and was updating this as and when required. This recommendation has been met.

#### Recommendation 2

The childminder should undertake additional training including Child Protection and Infection Control.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Standard 13: Improving the Service

**This recommendation was made on 18 June 2013.**

## Action taken on previous recommendation

Infection control training was undertaken and completed but child protection training had not been achieved. This recommendation was not met. A new recommendation relating to Child Protection training has been made.

## 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	
18 Jun 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed



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Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

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

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