

# Graham, Alison

## Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 26 March 2018

**Service provided by:**  
Graham, Alison

**Service provider number:**  
SP2004939494

**Care service number:**  
CS2004079624

## 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).

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives. The Care Inspectorate has an important role to play in supporting this approach in inspecting care services for children.

The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. It's a consistent way for people to work with all children and young people. The approach helps practitioners focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people – and how they can act to deliver these improvements. Getting it right for every child is being threaded through all existing policy, practice, strategy and legislation affecting children, young people and their families.

In Scotland, the Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) approach puts wellbeing at the very heart of its approach. The eight 'indicators' of wellbeing that form the basis of GIRFEC are– safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included – often referred to as 'SHANARRI'.

Alison Graham will be referred to as 'the childminder' throughout this report. The service is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16 of whom a maximum of six will be under 12 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 children of the childminder's own family.

The service is provided from the childminder's home in a residential area of West Linton. The service is located near local schools, shops and parks. The children have access to the living room, kitchen diner and supervised access to the bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden.

The aims and objectives of the service include:

"To provide a safe, friendly and flexible service.

I would hope to offer:

A warm, caring atmosphere where the child feels safe and relaxed.

Stimulating play opportunities relevant to the child's needs."

### What we did during our inspection

The inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate. We visited the childminder on 20 March 2018, the childminder was unavailable. We contacted the childminder and conducted a short notice inspection on 26 March 2018.

As part of the inspection process we asked the service to issue care standard questionnaires to parents using the service.

During the inspection we gathered evidence from various sources including talking to the childminder, talking to children, looking at key information kept to ensure that children's needs were met. We walked round the home with the childminder and assessed the suitability of the environment and equipment used for childminding.

## Views of people using the service

Four children were present during the inspection. The childminder only minded primary aged children before and after school. The children told us they really enjoyed their time with the childminder. Some responses included:

"we get to do lots of art, we watch TV and play at the park"

"We go to the church hall"

"we make dens and had a snowball fight, then hot chocolate."

One parent returned the care standard questionnaire prior to our inspection. It strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care their child received from the childminder.

## Self assessment

The childminder did not submit a self assessment prior to this inspection. The childminder should ensure that she completes her self assessment. It would allow her to evaluate and assess her own service. Identifying areas where she thought she did well and areas which she thought could be improved. We use this document to inform our inspection.

## What the service did well

Children spoke positively of the service and we observed they were happy in the childminders care.

## What the service could do better

The childminder should ensure that she submits a notification regarding her child turning 16. She should also ensure that she develops care plans if children require additional support.

## 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	4 - Good

## Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder only cared for older children before and after school. We saw that the children were relaxed and very comfortable with the childminder. They were very focused on the art activities and they told us they enjoyed coming to Alison's. The children told us that they got to choose what they wanted to do "within reason" and they enjoyed the art activities and playing outside in the park. They confirmed they were regularly asked for their views and suggestions. The childminder knew the children well and her warm and caring manner supported them to feel safe and secure.

The childminder kept some information on each child. Parents confirmed that they felt the childminder knew their child well and provided a good level of communication. We found that the childminder met the child's individual care and support needs on an ongoing basis.

The childminder kept individual files for the children that included registration forms and all about me information. This provided information about emergency contacts, allergies and care needs. We have asked the childminder to develop strategies of support if children require it. She agreed to do this.

The childminder promoted health and wellbeing through the use of outdoor areas for physical play, healthy eating and good hygiene practices. She provided snacks after school for the children. The childminder described a range of food that was varied and healthy. A parent confirmed that children receive "a wide range of healthy snacks, including lots of fruit and the children can select. I've never had any concerns about food". The childminder had knowledge of child protection and GIRFEC. This meant children were active, healthy and safe in her care.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 4 - good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The home was a pleasant environment for children to use. Children were cared for mainly in the kitchen/diner and the living room. Children were confident in asking the childminder for help or further resources. We saw the children were happy and relaxed in the childminders home.

The childminder provided children with a very good range of activities and resources to play with. The minded children told us that they really liked drawing and art activities but could choose from 'lots of other things.'

On the day of inspection the children asked if they could play outside. We saw that they were happy and active outside and could play with a range of resources. Children also played in the park after school. This meant that they had regular opportunities to fresh air and exercise. The childminder allowed the children to experience some risk in their play and understood the benefits of this type of play for children. A parent confirmed "during fine weather, always outdoors, which I support 100%".

## 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

The childminder knew the children and their needs very well. She worked in partnership with parents to support the children. As stated in quality theme: Care and support the childminder should develop her personal plans if children require additional support. She informally evaluates her service by speaking to the parents and children to see if they are happy with the service provided.

The childminder had attended some training. She was also took part in other training through her position as an early years practitioner. She had an understanding about GIRFEC and the SHANARRI indicators and told us it was "Child-led and this means keeping the children safe and happy and working together ensure this happens".

The childminder told us that she keeps up to date with best practice and any changes in legislation by reading the Care Inspectorate magazines. She also discusses ideas with her colleagues and other childminders. She has some understanding of best practice documents. To ensure that the childminder stays up to date with good practice we signposted her to the HUB on the Care Inspectorate website. We also provided information on 'Your Childminding Journey', which aims to support childminders with both self-reflection and provide best practice guidance.

The childminder did not have an up to date certificate on display and she could not provide us with a copy of her most recent public liability insurance. She has agreed to provide us with a copy of the insurance as soon as possible. There had been a change to circumstances as her child had turned 16. We have asked her to notify us of this change so we can send out the relevant paperwork. She agreed to do this.

### Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 – 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

#### Recommendation 1

We recommend the childminder ensures all information regarding minded children and their care needs is reviewed at least once every six months. She should begin to show how children's development needs are planned for using next steps in their files. This will help to ensure that an appropriate personal plan is in place and remains up to date.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16:  
Standard 3 - Health and wellbeing  
Standard 6 - Support and Development.

**This recommendation was made on 13 November 2015.**

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had information on each child. We have asked her to develop the children's plans if they require additional support.  
This recommendation is met.

#### Recommendation 2

We recommend that the childminder formally asks for feedback on the service she provides. This information should be used to make improvements if necessary.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16:  
Standard 13 - Improving the service  
Standard 14 - Well-managed service.

**This recommendation was made on 13 November 2015.**

**Action taken on previous recommendation**

The childminder had considered asking for formal feedback on her service. She provides care for children after school. Children were actively involved in providing suggestions and ideas. Carer were informally asked for feedback on the service.

This recommendation is met.

**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
31 Aug 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 4 - Good
21 Sep 2011	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership Not assessed
2 Mar 2011	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
1 Jun 2009	Announced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
30 Apr 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good



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