

# Little Beanies Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 9 July 2018

**Service provided by:**  
Claire Bain Trading As Little Beanies

**Service provider number:**  
SP2004935339

**Care service number:**  
CS2004079610

## The service

### Introduction

Claire Bain trading as Little Beanies has been registered since 2005.

The childminder can provide care to a maximum of 6 children under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the children of the childminder's family.

Currently ten children use the service. Three minded children were present when we visited the service.

The childminder provided her service from a detached property, which is situated in a quiet residential area of St Boswells. The property has garden area to the front and back. The front garden was used in all weathers as were local parks and walks.

The aims and objectives of the service included:

"To achieve a high standard of childcare to the complete satisfaction of the children and parents".

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 the 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. Information on SHANARRI can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

### What we did during our inspection

During the inspection we gathered evidence from various sources. This included talking to the childminder, talking to and observing the minded children and looking at key information kept to ensure that children's needs were met. We also looked at resources, equipment and the environment. We observed how well the children played together.

We took account of the comments parents gave us in our care standards questionnaires and when we spoke to them.

All of the above information was taken into account and reported on under the relevant quality themes within this report.

## Views of people using the service

We observed the minded children to be happy, actively occupied and comfortable in the care of the childminder. We saw that the childminder supported them well. They listened to them and allowed them to make their own choices in deciding what they wanted to play with.

Two of the questionnaires we gave to the childminder to give to parents were returned to us. We received very positive comments from the parents about the service. Some of the comments are included below and some are written within the body of the report. Parents strongly agreed with the statement 'Overall, I am happy with the quality of care my child receives at this service'. Representative comments include:

"It is a loving, caring and personal service."

"Claire is excellent with my children and they have developed into confident individuals."

"My children have developed a lot in Claire's care."

"Fantastic service which I would highly recommend and can rest easy when my children are in Claire's care."

We spoke with a parent when they were dropping off their children. They told us they were very happy with the care and support their children received from their childminder.

## Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self assessment document from the childminder. We were satisfied with the way that they had completed this and with the relevant information they gave us for each of the headings we grade them under. She told us how parents and children had been involved in the service.

## What the service did well

Children were being cared for in a safe, warm, happy and nurturing environment. The childminder responded gently and reassuringly to the children and was able to meet their needs. Children are offered a very good range of experiences which supported their development encouraging independence and self-esteem. It was evident that she had very good relationships with the parents of the children she was caring for.

## What the service could do better

We asked the childminder to update some of her knowledge by looking at the new Health and Social Care Standards.

## 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

A very good range of written and verbal information was collected about each child to help the childminder meet a child's care and support needs. In addition to registration information the childminder described the discussions she had with parents as part of the settling in process and on going placement. The childminder shared children's experiences with parents through the use of confidential media. A parent spoke positively about the feedback they received about their children and strongly agreed that communication was clear and professional. Another told us "Claire has regular updates and is always available to talk" and has "a regular newsletter".

The childminder had a good understanding of the approach Getting It Right For Every Child and the principles of the wellbeing indicators. She was beginning to use these actively in assessing her service. The childminder had a lovely nature with the children and got down to their level for play and included them in conversation. She used praise and encouragement constantly, helping them to feel secure and comfortable.

The childminder had a very good understanding of child development and promoted health and wellbeing through the use of a wide range of outdoor areas for physical play, promoting healthy eating and good hygiene practices. A parent told us that her childminder "works on areas we have identified together" and "Claire has a great routine with them".

It was evident the childminder knew all the children well. She was able to describe the individual care she provided in depth and knew their preferences and needs very well. She gave examples of how she was working with parents to support them and their children. The children present were relaxed and happy with their childminder. She was aware of all the different personalities and showed a good understanding regarding giving older children independence and responsibility. A parent told us their childminder provides "activities that are well suited to age range and personal development stages".

By being aware of her roles and responsibilities in the protection and safeguarding of children she was able to keep them safe. The childminder supported children to gain confidence in keeping themselves safe by practising road safety and being a positive role model.

### Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

### Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

**Grade:** 5 - very good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The home provided a warm and welcoming environment for children. It was very much a home from home and minded children were comfortable and familiar with their surroundings. The garden provided a varied environment with a mixture of wheeled toys, movable resources and areas for children to explore and learn about nature. The childminder told us that searching for 'bugs' was a favourite pastime with children at the moment. Trips further afield to visitor centres and walks in the woods encouraged children's curiosity and imagination. These offered children very good environments for active learning about nature and having fun with their peers. A parent told us "children all play very happy and enjoy the opportunity to try new experiences".

In addition to outdoor play the childminder had dedicated indoor play space and a range of toys, resources and equipment for a wide age range. On the day we visited the children were busy and engaged in their chosen activities, this included painting and drawing. Children told us they "loved painting and making things". The childminder had made strong links with other childminders and met with them regularly and had introduced children to group activities by attending local toddler groups. By recognising the importance of children socialising and sharing experiences with their peers the childminder promoted the best outcomes for them.

The childminder had developed a number of policies to inform parents what action she took to keep their children safe. She discussed safety with children and encouraged them to take some responsibility for their own safety to promote responsibility and independence. When we visited we found the home to be safe and secure and through discussion with the childminder it was evident she was very aware of hazards and potential hazards and took action to minimise these.

### 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's experience, commitment and enthusiasm was a major strength of her service. Her professional, reassuring and friendly manner was conducive to providing a very good quality service which was supportive and caring toward the parents and children she cared for.

The childminder continued to assess, develop and improve the service she provided. She did this by developing supportive partnerships with parents and local childminders, accessing relevant training opportunities and keeping up to date with current best practice and childcare legislation. As a result of training the childminder was confident and knowledgeable. She shared what she had learnt with parents which meant parents were becoming familiar with best practice and kept them involved in the development of her service.

The childminder included parents and children in the evaluation of her service and this meant they could feel involved in service development and she was able to meet individual needs. Newsletters kept parents informed of any changes in the service and let them know what their children had decided they would like to do over the school holiday period. A parent told us their childminder is "always good at communicating with parents". Another parent told us "Claire talks about her plans (mud kitchen), changes she may be thinking about and about excursions and our thoughts".

Written information for parents was comprehensive, letting them know of the activities she provided, all about her policies and procedures and the aims and objectives of her service. This information made it clear to parents that she had their child's best interests at heart and made a commitment to working with and involving them and their child in all aspects of the service.

### 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

#### Requirement 1

The childminder must ensure a personal plan is developed for each child. This plan must set out how the child's health, welfare and safety needs are to be met. This plan must be reviewed at least once in every six month period whilst the child attends the service.

This is to comply with the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulation 5 (1), (2) (iii) Personal plans/

Timescale: within 4 weeks of receipt of this report.

**This requirement was made on 6 October 2014.**

#### Action taken on previous requirement

Personal plans were in place for each child. These reflected the welfare and needs of individuals. There was evidence that these were being reviewed.

**Met - within timescales**

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

### Previous recommendations

#### Recommendation 1

The childminder should update the information leaflet she gave to parents as planned. National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 1 - being welcomed and valued.

**This recommendation was made on 6 October 2014.**

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had updated her information leaflet.

**This recommendation had been met.**

## Recommendation 2

The childminder should further embed SHANARRI into all aspects of the service she provides. National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 3 - health and well-being.

**This recommendation was made on 6 October 2014.**

### Action taken on previous recommendation

The well-being indicators had been incorporated in to welcome/introduction form and in aims and objectives. these were being used throughout the service.

**This recommendation had been 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
6 Oct 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 4 - Good
4 Nov 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed



Date	Type	Gradings	
26 Nov 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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