

# Amanda Adams Childcare Child Minding

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)  
Inspection completed on: 30 July 2018

**Service provided by:**  
Adams, Amanda

**Service provider number:**  
SP2017989057

**Care service number:**  
CS2017356562

## The service

### Introduction

Amanda Adams Childcare was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 26 July 2017 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 who no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate. Overnight care will not be provided.

The service is provided from the childminder's home within a residential area of Ellon, a rural town in Aberdeenshire. The service is located close to Auchterellon Primary School, Auchterellon Under 5s, local shops and parks. The areas used by the children were the lounge, kitchen dining room and first floor bathroom. Children had easy access to the rear garden.

The aims of the service were comprehensive, summarised they included to:

- Offer a flexible service to parents Monday to Friday.
- Provide a safe, secure and friendly atmosphere where children can be nurtured, explore and learn in a loving environment while their parents are at work.
- Assist children in being active, with various indoor and outdoor activities; making use of the outdoor space and the park.
- Involve the children in cooking, baking and snack preparation.
- Give children choice in their eating habits to encourage healthy eating.
- Enable children choice in what they want to do and support them.
- Treat every child as an individual with their own particular needs interests and wishes.
- Give children every opportunity to achieve their goals through age appropriate activities.
- Encourage children to respect others, be responsible for their actions and the consequences.
- Provide time for structured activities such as art and crafts, story time and musical play as well as free play, shopping, walking the dog, outdoor play and messy play.
- Discuss and share activities with children and families and use these interactions to form the child's next steps within the service.

### What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an announced inspection carried out by one inspector. The inspection was announced because it was school holidays and we had visited twice and found no-one at home. The visit took place on 30 July between 9:40 and 13:00. Feedback was given to the childminder during and at the end of the inspection. During the inspection we observed the childminder working with a minded child and evaluated the quality of care, environment and management and leadership. We looked at relevant documents and records including children's records, care plans, and relevant policies.

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 parents to work with the 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 child present was too young to express a view but was observed to be happy and contented in the care of the childminder and the company of her family.

Before the inspection three parents returned completed questionnaires to us. The responses from these demonstrated that they were very happy with the quality of care provided.

Comments included:

"We are very happy with the care our child gets. It really is a home from home. Amanda is fantastic with him."

"Our first experience of using a childminder has been extremely positive. Amanda was amazing at helping us... I wouldn't hesitate to recommend her to anyone. Our child totally dotes on her and I couldn't be happier that she's their childminder."

"I am extremely pleased with the service Amanda provides. I am very lucky that I can go to work and know my child is with someone caring who will keep them safe, while offering a stimulating fun day."

## Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed, comprehensive self assessment from the childminder. The childminder identified what they thought the service did well and gave examples of how children's choices and independence were promoted. The child minder told us how children and families views were sought and how their feedback directed the development of the service.

## What the service did well

Children are provided with high quality care and support taking account of best practice in early learning and childcare. All aspects of children's wellbeing are nurtured and supported through careful planning and consultation with children and families.

Children are cared for in a safe and hygienic environment equipped with a wide range of good quality stimulating play materials. Children's learning is supported by positive interaction and role modelling from the child minder. Children's experiences are extended and they are helped to feel included by good use of local community groups.

The childminder is very knowledgeable about her role and responsibilities and takes a professional approach in managing her service. Reflecting on what she provides and asking for the views of children and families helps her to continually improve.

What the service could do better

The childminder is committed to professional development and continued improvement.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
Quality of environment	6 - Excellent
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	6 - Excellent

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

The quality of care and support provided by Amanda Adams Childcare was excellent.

We saw that the minded child was nurtured with warm care and attention by the childminder. As a result the child was very happy and contented in the family home and played with the childminder's children and a variety of toys in a relaxed manner. The childminder interacted well with the child in their play to nurture their developing vocabulary. Children were given clear expectations of behaviour and purposeful interaction by the childminder helped them to explore their feelings and actions.

Children's care was planned thoughtfully making excellent use of the wellbeing wheel to ensure each individual plan was right for them. The childminder observed and reflected on children's play and development. This helped her to plan next steps and create opportunities that supported children to achieve their potential. Parents were involved in sharing children's achievements from home and updating care plans on a regular basis.

Individualised settling-in visits met the needs of babies in ensuring their emotional attachments were secure with the childminder before starting. Babies had detailed care plans that helped the childminder care for them very effectively.

Children were nurtured and their wellbeing supported by well thought out routines. The importance of sleep for children was recognised; supported by information from the Lullaby Trust. We saw the child settled down to sleep with a story of their choice. The childminder spent time to nurture the child in a relaxed manner.

Children were encouraged in healthy eating by positive role modelling sitting at the table. Children were able to make their own choices from a selection of healthy options including cereal, cucumber, banana and blueberries. The childminder demonstrated a sound understanding of the good practice guidance 'Setting the Table'.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 – excellent

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The quality of environment provided by Amanda Adams Childcare was excellent.

Children benefitted from an environment that was warm, welcoming, clean and hygienic. Children's independence was supported by well thought out touches, for example low coat hooks that they could reach themselves and toy boxes labelled with both words and pictures to support their choices. Children had plenty of space to play and direct access to the garden through patio doors.

A wide range of interesting activities and good quality resources was provided for the children to develop their learning. Books were easily accessible, they were encouraged to mark make, create, build and sort by size. Children's creativity, imagination and investigation skills were encouraged through the use of natural and open-ended play materials, for example treasure baskets for babies and a mud kitchen with pots and pans in the garden. The childminder understood the value of loose parts for children problem-solving and being inventive and planned to build on this type of play outdoors. The minded child was busy and engaged throughout the morning and particularly enjoyed the sand play and toddler trampoline outdoors.

Children's choices and wishes were respected; they were consulted in planning a range of activities including outdoor play and arts and crafts. They participated in outings to local church toddler groups, the Lego Club at Ellon library and the 'Cardboard Café'. These outings provided stimulating activities and helped children make social connections and feel included in their community.

Children were safe and protected in the environment because the childminder had an excellent understanding of her role and responsibilities. Child protection procedures were well understood including GIRFEC and the role of the named person. Health and safety procedures were robust and implemented well. Children were encouraged in positive hygiene routines and hand-washing. The environment and outings were assessed for risks. Valuable knowledge had been gained from a child focused first aid course. Accidents and incidents had been dealt with and recorded appropriately, parents informed promptly and their advice sought.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 – excellent

## Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

The quality of management and leadership provided by Amanda Adams childcare was excellent.

Parents had confidence in the childminder because communication with parents was very professional and kept them fully informed about how the children were cared for and the stimulating activities they were provided with. Daily electronic reports included information on the child's day, photographs and the child's evaluation of their experiences. Evaluations showed that parents found this really helpful.

Coming from a teaching background the childminder had an excellent awareness of meeting children's needs. In discussion she demonstrated sound values of compassion, respect, inclusion, wellbeing and responsiveness to individuals. Meeting with local childminders, reading and attendance at extensive training had contributed to the childminder being skilled, competent and professional in ensuring positive outcomes for children. The childminder had ensured that she had an excellent knowledge of best practice guidance and had used this to inform her comprehensive policies and well-informed approaches.

Parents and children were encouraged to give regular feedback on the service. Children's questionnaires were child friendly and meaningful. Structured around the wellbeing indicators they had helped children share how they experienced the childminder's care. Children contributed ideas about what activities they wanted to do which influenced the service. Questionnaires from for parents had been successful in obtaining detailed positive feedback; we discussed developing the questions to make them open-ended to ensure that feedback is always as good.

The childminder had used reflective questions from a childminding support company. This comprehensive self-evaluation contributed to a culture of continuous meaningful improvement. As a result the childminder had undertaken a healthy eating topic with the children, improved her outdoor resources; providing more open-ended play opportunities, included more multicultural awareness activities and highlighted safety to the children.

The childminder was up to date with changes in legislation. Reflection on the new general data protection regulations had prompted an audit of data retention, development of a privacy and data retention policy. This culture of continuous improvement was contributing to the implementation of best practice and positive outcomes for children and families.

### 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

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

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