

# Emma Hobbin's Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Announced  
Inspection completed on: 22 August 2018

**Service provided by:**  
Hobbin, Emma

**Service provider number:**  
SP2015986832

**Care service number:**  
CS2015336545

## The service

### Introduction

The service was registered in 2015 and is provided from the childminder's home which is centrally located, providing easy access to local facilities including school and nursery. The ground floor accommodation and fully enclosed garden are used for childminding purposes. The aims of the service include the following:

- "to provide high quality care in a clean, warm, relaxed and family friendly home
- to treat each child as an individual
- to provide enjoyable, stimulating activities
- to work closely with parents and carers."

The childminding service is registered under the following conditions:

- To provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 12 of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.
- Overnight care may not be provided.
- Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.

At the time of inspection, three children were registered to attend the service. One minded child was present together with Mrs Hobbin's own children, one of whom was asleep throughout our visit.

### What we did during our inspection

We visited unannounced on Thursday 16 August 2018; however, the service was not operating at that time. We then made an announced visit to the service on Wednesday 22 August 2018. One inspector was present in the service for approximately two hours.

Mrs Hobbin submitted an Annual Return, as required. She also took the opportunity to submit a Self assessment, as part of the inspection process.

We asked Mrs Hobbin to issue questionnaires to any parents using the service, to allow them to comment. We received two completed questionnaires.

During the inspection visit we gathered evidence from various sources, including:

- discussion with the childminder
- observation of interaction between childminder and minded child
- comments from children
- observation of activities and the environment
- children's records.

We took account of all of the above information when writing this report. 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 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. (These are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators.)

## Views of people using the service

The children were settled and engaged in their activities throughout our visit. They chatted happily as they played and it was evident that the minded child was comfortable in the setting and benefited from a trusting relationship with the childminder.

Comments from the children included the following:

"We play with lots of things. There's lots of toys here."

"We made traffic lights: red for stopping, green for go."

"Look, I got a plaster. I was sawing at nursery." (woodwork table)

"I've found a purple one." (felt pen)

"We have stories."

"I think I need more Minnie Mouse stickers." (craft work)

Two parents provided feedback on the service. Comments were positive and included the following:

"Emma is amazing with the kids. She is patient and treats them equally and at their own level of understanding. The kids have never had anything negative to say about Emma and I have always felt comfortable that my children are in safe hands."

"There are regular walks to the park and visits to soft play centres. We have a daily review if required. Emma is keen to share pictures of my child on their outings and activities."

## Self assessment

The self assessment was completed well and provided an accurate reflection of the service as we experienced it.

## What the service did well

Mrs Hobbin had formed good working relationships with children and their parents. She supported minded children well and provided regular opportunities for fresh air and energetic activities which, over time, will have a positive impact on their health and wellbeing.

## What the service could do better

Mrs Hobbin expressed a commitment to further learning. Increased familiarity with current guidance documents will help her to maintain and improve outcomes for minded children.

## 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

Admissions were planned in a way that allowed parents to find out what the service offered and enabled children to settle at their own pace. Mrs Hobbin recognised the importance of working closely with parents to ensure continuity between home and the service. Parents confirmed that she communicated well. This helped ensure that children's needs were understood and met.

Mrs Hobbin displayed a friendly, caring manner towards the children. She had formed close, nurturing relationships with minded children and provided a range of experiences which supported their learning and development. The pace of the day took account of the individual needs of those being cared for, at any given time. Mrs Hobbin believed in keeping children active and engaged in their play, in order to support a healthy lifestyle. For example, she shared her interest in physical fitness with the children and provided frequent opportunities for fresh air and energetic play. Good use was made of community facilities, including parks, library, community centres, swimming pool and soft play centres. This helped children learn about the local environment and widened their experience.

Mrs Hobbin used mealtimes as an opportunity to raise children's awareness of healthy eating. While parents supplied most of their children's food, Mrs Hobbin talked to the children about healthy choices and encouraged them to sample new foods, when possible.

We observed good quality interaction and concluded that children were valued and respected. Positive behaviour was promoted and we saw that the children were learning to be considerate and caring towards one another. As a result, they played cooperatively and enjoyed spending time together. Mrs Hobbin talked to the children about what they'd like to do, suggesting activities which might interest them. She encouraged them to work independently, to help them extend their skills, providing support when needed. The children were proud of their work and were praised for their efforts.

Parents confirmed that Mrs Hobbin was willing to provide any individualised support their child required. Mrs Hobbin was aware of the need to develop a personal plan for each child and had begun to record information about their progress. She took account of the SHANARRI indicators and recorded examples of ways in which these were met through the activities she offered. Mrs Hobbin could further develop children's plans by noting any significant discussions with parents and any action points which are agreed.

Mrs Hobbin was aware of her role in protecting children and understood her obligation to act on any concerns. She had undertaken some relevant learning online and planned to attend child protection training to enhance her knowledge of this important aspect of her work.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 5 – very good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The property is located adjacent to a busy road; however, off-street parking space in front of the house allowed children safe access to the childminder's home. The ground floor accommodation was appropriately furnished and equipped for childminding purposes.

Children had access to a good range of age-appropriate resources, many of which were easily accessible so that they could select what they wanted to play with. The dining room provided a base for children's activities and the storage of play equipment. There was a good amount of free floor space where children could set out their materials and a table was available for arts and crafts and other table top activities. Children also spent time in the kitchen, for specific activities, including meal times. Children could access the garden from this part of the house. The toilet was also easily accessible on the ground floor and older children could access this themselves which helped promote their independence. Mrs Hobbin confirmed that a travel cot and baby monitor were available for sleep times, if needed.

The garden provided a large enclosed space for outdoor play. Suitable equipment was available to the children, including a playhouse, chute, basketball net and wheeled toys. There was a good amount of space and the childminder encouraged exercise and energetic play which promoted the children's health and wellbeing, while increasing their confidence in their own abilities. Mrs Hobbin had also introduced the children to planting which had been a useful learning opportunity.

Risk assessments were carried out in the home and in relation to outings. Mrs Hobbin confirmed that she had appropriate restraints available for children travelling by car. These measures helped ensure children's safety. There had been no significant accidents or incidents affecting minded children; however, the childminder was aware of the need to record details of any occurrences and to inform parents about what had happened and any action taken. She held a current first aid certificate.

We discussed infection control practices. Mrs Hobbin encouraged routine hand washing. Nappy changing was carried out hygienically. Parents generally kept their children at home if they were unwell. These measures minimised the risk of the spread of infection.

Mrs Hobbin provided evidence of the public liability and motor insurance policies which were in place. These may provide a degree of protection to herself and to families who use the service.

## 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

Mrs Hobbin shared written and verbal information about the service and welcomed feedback from parents and children. This helped her to evaluate her work and to identify any changes or improvements which may be needed. A parent told us "Emma asks for input into activities. She is very approachable and accommodating and always willing to help."

Mrs Hobbin was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association which provided information, guidance and support when needed. She had been proactive in undertaking further learning through reading and training and was due to commence a childcare course. She was aware of relevant guidance documents which are in place to help ensure positive outcomes for children and we directed her to some additional publications which will further support her understanding of childcare and childminding issues.

Mrs Hobbin had a good understanding of regulatory issues. She had submitted information to the Care Inspectorate when asked to do so and was aware of the need to make formal notifications, in certain circumstances. A suitable record keeping system was in place. Mrs Hobbin planned to make changes to the way children's attendance was recorded which will ensure accuracy and make the information more easily accessible. A complaints procedure was in place and was shared with parents. This should be updated to include current contact details for the Care Inspectorate.

## 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

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

The childminder should continue to develop the ways that participation and involvement of the children and parents using the service is used. She should look at how the voice of the child is used to further improve the service and consider how their views and suggestions can be recorded.

**National Care Standards, Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16**

**Standard 6: Support and Development,**

**Standard 1: Being welcomed and valued.**

This recommendation was made on 28 April 2016.

### Action taken on previous recommendation

Work was in progress regarding this recommendation. The childminder had formed good working relationships with parents and children and had begun to take account of their views. She was considering further measures which could be employed to reflect their participation.

## 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	
7 Apr 2016	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good



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Compass House  
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Dundee  
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