

# Keirs, Jane

## Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 19 July 2018

**Service provided by:**  
Jane Keirs

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003901703

**Care service number:**  
CS2003003377

## 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 service has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since April 2002.

Jane Keirs is registered to provide the childminding service which is located in a residential area within the town of Mauchline in East Ayrshire within close proximity to local parks/walks, school and shops. The childminder provides her service in her home, a semi detached house.

Minded children have access to certain areas of the ground floor and the enclosed rear garden. The childminder accesses the local parks for outdoor play and energetic activities.

The conditions of registration state:

'The childminder may care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, 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 children of the childminder's family.'

At the time of this inspection, the childminder was providing a service for four children from three families within the conditions of her registration.

The childminder provided care on a flexible basis. Two children of school age were present during the inspection.

The childminder's aims for her service included 'caring for minded children in a safe and secure environment.'

## What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report after an unannounced inspection that took place on Thursday 19 July 2018 between 8:30am and 11:00am. One Care Inspectorate early years inspector carried out the inspection.

During this inspection, we spoke with the childminder. There were two children present who played close by throughout the inspection visit. We observed the care given by the childminder and looked at a number of documents including records for the children and health and safety records. We also inspected those areas of the property used for childminding.

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 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.

## Views of people using the service

Two children played contentedly throughout our visit. The childminder was aware of where they were at all times. The children looked very comfortable with the Childminder. The resources that were available were easily accessed and age appropriate. The childminder clearly understood the children's needs and outlined the care she provided in keeping with the parent's wishes and the children's age and stage of development.

We issued four questionnaires for parents to complete and two parents returned a completed questionnaire. Both indicated complete satisfaction with the service. Comments included:

'Jane has provide my child a safe and happy place to be. It has given us peace of mind that our child will be looked after by a caring and thoughtful individual.'

'Excellent service provided by Jane, she provides a safe, caring environment for our children. Very happy children = very happy parents!'

## Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self-assessment from the childminder. The childminder identified what they thought they did well, and gave examples of how her care had impacted on outcomes for children.

## What the service did well

The childminder was warm, caring and friendly in the way she provided care and support. She worked closely with families to agree how the service was provided and had developed an open and honest relationship with them. The children in her care responded to the nurturing and respectful manner in which the childminder spoke and interacted with them. The environment was engaging and well laid out to ensure that all children benefited from the childminders attention and support.

## What the service could do better

Continue to provide a very good service to the 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

We found that overall the childminder provided a very good quality of care and support to children in her care.

Before children started in the service, the childminder provided a number of flexible induction sessions. This allowed the child to become familiar with the childminder and for her to get to know the family well. The childminder took account of each child's individual circumstances and adjusted the induction times to suit. The childminder used her experience to actively and engagingly support the development of her minded children.

The childminder knew each child, and their family, very well. A range of documents were held by the childminder, which clearly detailed each child's specific care needs. These were completed with the parents when the child started within the service and updated and reviewed regularly. Children's views were included and revisited frequently.

The childminder shared informative information daily with the parents about their child's activities while in the service. She kept a diary for each child or family, which she completed when she felt the information was required to be kept, this did not happen daily. We found this to be appropriate.

The childminder had very good knowledge about Getting it Right for Every Child and the wellbeing indicators. This knowledge was used to inform the Personal Plans she kept for each child. Her plans were well focused on developments for children and identified and noted areas of significant health, welfare and safety needs. It also identified significant achievements. We noted that children were actively involved in their own personal plans.

We looked at the service policy on child protection. We discussed this with her and were happy that she was aware of her responsibility to protect children in her care. She knew who to contact for advice and support should a concern arise about any of the minded children.

We saw evidence that the childminder and the children had worked together to decide on the house rules. We saw that they had shared their own ideas. This showed us the minded children were being encouraged to be responsible. We saw the children were respected and included.

### Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

### Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

**Grade:** 5 – very good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder provided a warm, safe and homely environment for the children she cared for. We concluded she did this to a very good standard.

Children had access to most areas in the downstairs of the childminder's home; the childminder had made very good use of the space available. Children had access to an enclosed back garden. This gave children plenty of space to be active, explore, be creative or sit quietly in comfort.

We were shown around the childminder's home. We saw a well resourced and tidy storage cupboard, that the children told us they were able to access freely. We saw them playing contentedly with an extensive range of lego during the inspection visit.

The childminder liked to get children out as much as possible. She had built into their routine a number of regular activities. This included collecting them from school, visiting the local shops, as well as local park and letting them play with their friends, which supported their social development.

The childminder's home was child friendly. She told us she was alert of any hazards and would act to minimise these to keep children safe. The childminder had supported children well to learn about keeping themselves safe and this was supported by the rules that the children were aware of. We noted on our departure that the front door was unlocked, the childminder told us this was not normally the case, we asked the childminder to continue to be vigilant with regards to this in order that the safety and security of the minded children is not compromised.

We reviewed the childminder's procedures for promoting children's safety, health and minimising the spread of infection. The childminder knew the best procedure to follow when changing nappies, although she currently only had school aged children in her care.

Where children had an accident, these were recorded and shared with parents. We reviewed some of these and found that they were detailed and contained appropriate information. Although there had not been any accidents that we required to be notified about, we reminded the childminder about the notifications that she must make to us.

### 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

We found that the quality of management and leadership was very good. We concluded this after reviewing a range of paperwork and through discussions with the childminder.

We found the childminder to be professional, knowledgeable and well organised with regards to her childminding service.

The childminder had a very good commitment to her learning and development. It was evident from the inspection visit that she kept up to date with local and national best practice guidance.

The childminder was aware of key national documents and approaches such as Building the Ambition and the Getting it Right for Every Child approach and had received training on these. The childminder was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA). This was also where she purchased her liability insurance.

The SCMA supported the childminder to keep up-to-date with changes that may affect her service. She also received their regular childminding magazine, the Care News magazine from the Care Inspectorate as well as sharing information with other local childminders. The childminder told us she regularly checked the Care Inspectorate Hub, as this has a large amount of best practice guidance and information that benefitted her service.

The childminder gave children and their parent's opportunities to provide feedback on her service and their views were respected. She communicated daily with children about what they would like to do and what resources they would like to play with. She knew children well and followed their likes and dislikes, while encouraging them to try new things. Parents views were sought with regards to what the service did well and if there were any areas for improvement.

We spoke with one parents during the inspection visit and heard very positive comments.

All parents told us that the childminder kept them up-to-date with any changes she has made to the service. One parent also told us that the childminder 'goes above and beyond' to care for her child.

### 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 involve children in the development of risk assessments for outings and trips in her car.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 2 – a safe environment

**This recommendation was made on 7 May 2014.**

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

Met

#### Recommendation 2

The childminder should look at ways in which she can further evidence children's involvement in service development.

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 14 – well managed service

**This recommendation was made on 7 May 2014.**

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

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	
7 May 2014	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
21 May 2010	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
9 Jan 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed



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