

## Mcgill, Denise Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 23 April 2019

**Service provided by:**  
Mcgill, Denise

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003905359

**Care service number:**  
CS2003009952

## Introduction

The service is provided from the childminder's own home in the village of Inchtute in Perthshire. The house is a detached villa with an open area to the front and a fully enclosed garden to the rear. Children using the service have access to the ground and upper floor of the house. The conservatory is the main play area for the children. The kitchen has a dining table which is used for eating as well as art and craft activities. The minded children use an upstairs bathroom.

Access to the back garden is through the kitchen. The fully enclosed garden has a grassed area. A paved area provides opportunities for imaginative and messy play.

On the day of the inspection there were two children using the service. The childminder registered with the Care Inspectorate in April 2002.

The childminder's conditions of registration state that -

"The care service may be provided to a maximum of seven children at any one time under the age of 16 years, 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 the children of the childminder."

The childminder adheres to the conditions of her registration.

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), 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. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

## What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection, which took place between 9.15am and 11.30 on 23 April 2019. The inspection was carried out by a Care Inspectorate Early Years Inspector.

We gave feedback to the childminder at the end of the inspection. During this inspection we spoke to the childminder, the children present and two parents when they arrived to pick up their children. We observed the care given by the childminder and looked at a number of documents including children's diaries, personal plan, photographs and the service policies.

## Views of people using the service

During the inspection we saw that the minded children had a very strong relationship with the childminder. They were confident and played happily in her home. The childminder interacted with the children in a warm and positive way.

The children told us,

- "we are going on a bear hunt. We are going to the forest to get grass and make mud".

We received one completed questionnaire from parents. They strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care received by their children.

They told us:

- "my children are happy and settled"
- "I am confident in the care that Denise provides and her openness to chat through any issues."

## Self assessment

The childminder had submitted a self-assessment of her service in advance of the inspection. The information contained in this was helpful during the inspection and in the writing of this report.

## What the service did well

The childminder provided a very warm and caring atmosphere for children. She was kind and respectful, knew the children well, and used her experience to meet their individual needs.

She had regular consultations with parents and worked with them to follow children's routines. She gave opportunities for children to make decisions and choices about what they wanted to do. She offered interesting and fun activities. There were lots of opportunities for arts and crafts. She made very good use of the local area giving children lots of active play outdoors.

## What the service could do better

We identified some areas where we considered the childminder could improve. We suggested that she should continue to develop her knowledge of child protection and we signposted her to some resources.

To further develop her knowledge we suggested that she look at some current publications to support her learning.

## 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

From the evidence gathered during the inspection we found that the service was performing to a very good standard in this area. We concluded this after talking with the childminder. We looked at policies, personal plans and photographs.

The childminder formed close relationships with children and families. She gathered information about children from their parents. This allowed her to follow their routines and to meet their learning needs. She met regularly with parents to review progress and to identify next steps for their children. She used her knowledge of 'Getting It Right For Every Child' and the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators to ensure that supported the development of the whole child. She was warm and encouraging with the children. She was responsive to their needs and praised them for their efforts.

The childminder made effective use of her knowledge of child development and this had a positive impact on the children's learning. Each of the younger children had a personal learning plan. This showed how children were progressing. Photographs were shared with parents on a daily basis. This helped to reassure the parents of the youngest children that they were happy and engaged.

The childminder along with the children planned a very good range of experiences and activities. They all particularly enjoyed art and craft activities. Children had lots of opportunities for active play outdoors. The childminder had lots of ideas for interesting and fun activities in the local parks and wooded areas. The children enjoyed recalling these when looking at photographs.

The childminder was responsive to the needs and interests of the children. She was happy to follow-up on activities from home, school or nursery. In addition, children were listened to, and encouraged to be kind and respect each other.

The childminder had reviewed her policy and practice in the administration of medication. This now contained all of the necessary information, as a result the children's health and wellbeing was protected.

The children were offered healthy meals and snacks. They were encouraged to choose what they wanted to eat. The childminder was aware of the possible food allergens which could impact on children. Information on this was shared with parents.

The childminder had some training on child protection. She understood her responsibilities and was confident of the signs to look for. She knew who to contact locally if she had any concerns about any of the minded children.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 5 - very good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

From the evidence gathered during the inspection we found that the service was performing to a very good standard in this area.

From our observations we saw that the childminder's house was clean, tidy and well organised. She operated a strict no smoking policy. We saw that the house was safe for children. Toys and books were stored in the conservatory and these were easily accessed by children who could choose what they wanted.

Children were encouraged to take responsibility for tidying away when that had finished playing. We saw that the children were consulted on what they liked best and were involved in the rotation of the toys and games.

The children were cared for in a safe and secure setting. The minded children had the opportunity for active play in the fresh air. The childminder's garden was safe for children. It was fully enclosed and had a good range of toys and activities which were appropriate to the age and stage of the children.

The childminder and the children had frequent walks in the village. They played in the parks and the local woods. They had social times when they attended the local mother and toddler group.

The childminder carried out a daily visual check of her house and garden to make sure that it was safe for children. We asked her to consider creating risk assessments for the activities that she undertook in the village. These should include the walk to school and play park.

The childminder had effective practices in place to prevent the spread of infection. Children were reminded to wash hands before eating and after visiting the toilet. Nappies were changed using current best practice guidance.

The children were encouraged to think about their own safety while they were out with the childminder. She spoke each day to them about road safety during the walk to school. There were an effective arrangements in place for the pick up at the end of the school day. Children were clear on where to meet and what to do in the event of the childminder being delayed.

Accidents were recorded and shared with parents.

## 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

From the evidence gathered during the inspection we found that the service was performing to a very good standard in this area.

The childminder had met all of the recommendations made at our previous inspection. She had developed her service and made improvements to the way she recorded children's experiences and developments.

We suggested that she refer to 'Your Childminding Experience' (a learning and development resource Care Inspectorate) and 'Building the Ambition' (National Practice Guidance on Early Education and Childcare Scottish Government) where she would find current guidance on early learning and childcare.

The childminder had a conscientious approach to keeping herself up to date with legislation and best practice. She used her membership of the 'Scottish Childminding Association' and publications from the Care Inspectorate to find information. She was part of a group of local childminders who supported each other and worked together to develop their services. This all contributed to the positive experiences for children.

We suggested that she use the recently published 'Health and Social Care Standards' when reviewing and making changes to her service. These will help her to keep children at the heart of the service and its development.

We asked that the childminder kept her service policies under review, making changes when necessary. All relevant information was shared with parents in a comprehensive information pack which was shared when they began to use the service.

The childminder had an informal way of involving children and their parents in giving feedback on her service. She had a very open relationship with families who confirmed that they were happy to give feedback and were confident that their suggestions would be acted on.

The childminder had some evidence of parents responding to a short questionnaire asking them to identify positive aspects of the service and for things that could be improved. The childminder used her regular newsletter to share information as suggested by parents.

From all of the evidence that we saw we concluded that parents and children were very happy with the service that the childminder provided. This was confirmed by the comments in our questionnaire.

## 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 ensure that the personal plans of children using the service are reviewed once every six months or more often as necessary.

**National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 3: health and wellbeing; standard 6: support and development; standard 14: well-managed service.**

**This recommendation was made on 4 September 2015.**

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

Personal plans have been developed using the childminder's knowledge of SHANARRI. These are reviewed and updated with parents every six months. Next steps for each child are identified.

#### Recommendation 2

To support the health and welfare of children using the service the childminder should attend child protection training on a regular basis. The child protection statement should be reviewed to include the child protection team contact details and those of the Care Inspectorate who must be notified of any child protection concerns.

**National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 3: health and wellbeing.**

**This recommendation was made on 4 September 2015.**

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder has attended child protection training. She has the details of local child protection agencies available at all times.



### Recommendation 3

To support the safe administration of medication for children, the childminder should review the service medication permissions forms to ensure all information required is included.

To do this we recommend that the childminder refer to: Care Inspectorate:  
**'Health Guidance on the Safe Administration of Medication'.**

**This recommendation was made on 4 September 2015.**

### Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder has updated her policy and recording on the administration of medication. All of the necessary information is now recorded.

## 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 Aug 2015	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
30 Aug 2011	Announced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
9 Apr 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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Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

0345 600 9527

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