

# Black, Alison Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 30 April 2019

**Service provided by:**  
Black, Alison

**Service provider number:**  
SP2009973294

**Care service number:**  
CS2009195153

## 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).

Alison Black, referred to as the childminder in this report, is registered with the Care Inspectorate 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 six will be under 12 years, 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 children of the childminder's family.

From 12 January 2015 until 31 August 2015 or until a pre-school aged child leaves the service, a service may be provided two days per week between the hours of 9.30am and 6pm to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than six will be under 12 years, of whom no more than four are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

Mr Gordon Black works with the childminder as an assistant in the service.

The childminding service operates from the childminders home in the village of Newtongrange, Midlothian. The home is a lower floor flat in a block of four. The childminder has a garden to the back of the house which is used for childminding.

Aims and objectives for the childminding service had been developed and were shared with parents through the information booklet given to parents. Aims and objectives included:  
'Develop moral values that promote consideration for others.'

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 GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

## What we did during our inspection

The inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate. The unannounced inspection took place on 30 April 2019.

As part of the inspection process we asked the childminder to issue care standard questionnaires to parents using the service.

During the inspection we gathered evidence from various sources including talking to the childminder, talking to children, looking at key information kept to ensure that children's needs were met.

We walked round the home with the childminder and assessed the suitability of the environment and equipment used for childminding.

## Views of people using the service

There were two minded children present during our visit. Both were very comfortable and relaxed in the care of the childminder and her assistant. They had developed a good friendship with each other and were engaged together in their play.

We issued three care standard questionnaires as part of the inspection process. All forms were returned to us prior to the inspection. Parents strongly agreed that they were overall, happy with the quality of care their child received at the childminders. Additional comments supported a positive experience for children and parents. Comments included:

'My children love going there. They are stimulated and I have no doubts about the quality of care provided.'

'My children have always enjoyed being cared for by her (childminder) in her home. She always strives to provide individualised and appropriate care in a stimulating , clean and relaxed environment.'

## Self assessment

The childminder was asked to update the self assessment to fully identify how her service provided children with positive outcomes. Areas of strengths should be identified as well as some areas where she wished to develop her practice through information from good practice documents.

## What the service did well

The childminder and her assistant provided a very good standard of care for children. The childminder had a very good understanding of child development and used this to support children in her care. Children were relaxed, happy and nurtured in the childminding environment.

## What the service could do better

The childminder and her assistant should continue to keep updated with current childcare issues and developments to help them maintain the very good level of service.

## 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                  | 5 - Very Good |
| Quality of management and leadership | 5 - Very Good |

## Quality of care and support

## Findings from the inspection

The childminder collected a range of verbal and written information to help her meet the care and support needs of children in her care. Information was regularly updated to ensure that it provided a current overview of each child. The childminder described a very good settling in procedure which focussed on the needs of the child to ensure that they felt safe and secure in the setting.

Parents commented in the care standard questionnaire that they felt communication with the childminder was very good. Regular feedback was provided to them about their child's day and their development. A daily diary was used for the youngest children to ensure that parents had information about routines and feeding. This helped the childminder develop individual routines for young children.

There were two children present during our visit. They were very relaxed with the childminder and her assistant and chatted away to us, the childminder and each other during the visit. The childminder had a very good understanding of how to provide a nurturing emotional environment for children. She achieved this through her warmth, kindness and interactions with children showing an understanding that positive relationships helped children feel safe and secure.

The childminder provided some meals and snacks. She described healthy foods which met good practice guidance for nutrition and hydration. One minded child told us they loved having lunch but tea was best. The childminder and her assistant had a good understanding of child protection and safeguarding and daily outdoor play was offered to ensure that children could be physically active. These aspects of the service promoted children's health and wellbeing.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 5 - very good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The home was a ground floor property. The environment was very clean and well maintained to provide children with a warm and homely place to be cared for. Children could access areas of the home independently and safely. The kitchen was used for meals and messy play, the garden could be easily accessed from the kitchen and the main area for play was a dedicated playroom.

The garden provided children with a rich and varied environment. Very good procedures were in place to ensure that it was safe and secure for children to use. The childminder ensured that children had access to outdoor play on a daily basis and used a number of parks and wooded areas to provide children with varied play. One child said their favourite place to play was Leadburn but they liked the country park too.

The childminder had a dedicated playroom for children to use. A very good range of resources were available for children. These were arranged in a manner to enable children to select them themselves. During our visit children were very engaged in a range of resources which sustained their interest and enabled them to play happily alongside each other.

The childminder had a very good understanding of safety and carried out risk assessments to maintain a safe environment. Procedures were in place which told parents how the childminder kept their children. Procedures included administration of medication, recording accidents, infection control and child protection.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 5 - very good

## Quality of staffing

### Findings from the inspection

The assistant in the service was the childminders husband. The childminder had developed specific roles for her assistant and was good at giving instruction and pointers on how to achieve certain things for example the snack routine or supervision of outside play.

The assistant was a very active participant in care giving and supporting children in the service and children were very relaxed and used to his presence. He described the role he played in the service and was aware of his responsibility in relation to caring for minded children. Observing interactions between children and the assistant evidenced that he provided a very positive role model for children and the childminder and parents confirmed that he was fondly thought of by children.

The assistant had undertaken a range of training through the local authority to enable him to support children effectively and had a good understanding of childcare topics and developments.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 5 - very good

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder was committed to providing a service to children and their families which promoted positive outcomes. To achieve this she tried to keep up to date with current good practice and had carried out a range of training to enhance her professional skill and knowledge.

The views of parents were sought regularly through discussion and the use of a questionnaire. Where she provided placements for shorter periods of time she asked parents to complete an exit questionnaire to gauge satisfaction with her service. We have asked the childminder to complete the self assessment, which needed updated. This would enable her to look at her service in relation to the Health and Social Care Standards.

The childminder had updated policies and procedures to reflect the service provided. She had taken account of current good practice and had a good understanding of where to access information and support to enable her to provide her service. The childminder understood her regulatory responsibilities and to meet regulatory requirements she had public liability insurance and business insurance for her car which she sometimes used for childminding.

### 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

In order to maintain the safety and welfare of children using the service the childminder should develop a procedure for the administration of medication, add the name and address for the Care Inspectorate to her complaints procedure and add the contact numbers for police and social work to her child protection policy. National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 14 - Well managed service.

**This recommendation was made on 25 May 2015.**

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

Policies and procedures had been updated to include relevant information. This recommendation was 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                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25 May 2015 | Announced (short notice) | <div>Care and support</div> <div>Environment</div> <div>Staffing</div> <div>Management and leadership</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> |
| 15 Jun 2011 | Announced (short notice) | <div>Care and support</div> <div>Environment</div> <div>5 - Very good</div> <div>Not assessed</div>                                                                                                             |

| Date        | Type                     | Gradings                                                                 |                                                            |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
|             |                          | Staffing<br>Management and leadership                                    | 5 - Very good<br>Not assessed                              |
| 14 May 2010 | Announced (short notice) | Care and support<br>Environment<br>Staffing<br>Management and leadership | 5 - Very good<br>5 - Very good<br>4 - Good<br>Not assessed |

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