

# Blakely, Julie Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 12 June 2019

**Service provided by:**  
Julie Blakely

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003902423

**Care service number:**  
CS2003004332

## 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)

This service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

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. Getting it Right for Every Child 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 Getting it Right for Every Child. 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.

The childminder provides her service from her home in the town of Irvine in North Ayrshire. She can care for up to six children at any one time under the age of sixteen years, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under twelve months. Additional conditions of registration are:

- Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate
- Overnight service will not be provided

At the time of this inspection nine children of various ages were being cared for at different times.

The childminder principally aims to "provide quality childcare in a safe and stimulating environment".

## What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection which took place on the morning of 12 June 2019.

The childminder completed and submitted an annual return and self assessment form as requested.

We sent the childminder questionnaires to give to parents/carers using her service. Three were completed and returned to us prior to this inspection.

During the inspection process we gathered evidence from various sources including:

- Supporting evidence from the most recent self assessment
- Parent and child feedback questionnaires

- Childminder's weekly organiser
- Children's information/personal plans/records of achievement/developmental checklists
- After school care scrapbook
- Parental permissions
- Attendance registers
- Snack/lunch options
- Medication policy/procedure/recording
- Policies/procedures
- Risk assessments
- Infection control procedures
- Environmental Health report
- Gas safety check
- Parent information pack
- Information Commissioners Office (ICO) registration
- General Data Protection Regulation information
- Training
- Insurance certificates
- Registration certificate

We spoke with the childminder and observed interaction and the relationships between her and the children present.

We also looked at the childminding environment and some resources.

## Views of people using the service

Three young children under primary school age were being cared for during our visit. They were happy, settled and familiar in their surroundings and enjoyed positive relationships with the childminder and each other. They were happy to interact with us and had great fun with the toys/activities both indoors and outside.

The parents who completed and returned our Care Standards questionnaires were very happy with the quality of care their children received and provided us with very positive comments including "our child is happy and settled and she has built up a good relationship with Julie". Other comments can be found within this report.

## Self assessment

We received a competently completed self assessment document from the service provider. We were satisfied with the way they had completed this and with the relevant information they had given us for each of the headings that we grade them under.

The childminder identified what they thought they did well, improvements she had made, future developments and also told us how the people who used the care service had taken part in the self assessment process.

## What the service did well

The childminder had continued to develop her service to enhance positive outcomes for the children and their families.

She provided excellent care and support in an inclusive and nurturing environment, meeting children's individual needs.

Activities were child led and she took account of their suggestions, likes and interests when providing resources.

She was committed to her own learning and development, using this to make positive changes in her daily practice.

Parents were fully included in their children's care and progress, were kept up to date and were included in evaluating the childminder's service. Children's views and reflections on activities were sought and taken into account.

## What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to maintain and develop the quality service she provides.

She could use the information she has learned and gathered to create a development plan to indicate her planned continuous improvement.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	6 - Excellent
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

The childminder provided effective opportunities for children and their families to be actively included by listening to and acting on their views, providing them with choices and keeping them updated. She exchanged information in various ways including verbally, text messaging, emails and an online App, providing them confidentially with details of their child's day along with photographs. Parents told us they "particularly enjoyed looking at our child's progress folder and were able to add our views/responses to this" and that there were "regular discussions and childminder is always approachable". The children were consulted on what activities they wanted to participate in and the information gathered was used to plan taking account of their views/suggestions and interests. This told us that parents and children were included and respected.

The childminder knew the children very well and ensured they were at the centre of everything she provided within her service. She ensured an inclusive and nurturing environment and had gathered a very good range of personal information to enable the appropriate care and support to be provided. Personal plans had been reviewed and further developed and reflected how each child's health, safety and wellbeing needs would be met with next steps identified. Individual support needs were recognised and the childminder researched, attended relevant training and involved other professionals to ensure appropriate strategies were put in place for individuals. Children's achievements were recognised and parents were involved in identifying next steps in their

child's development. It was evident the principles of GIRFEC and the wellbeing indicators were embedded in the childminder's daily practice.

The childminder promoted healthy lifestyles. Snacks/lunches were varied and healthy and parents agreed that their children had a well-balanced diet which met their dietary needs. The childminder spent daily time outdoors, ensuring the children participated in regular active play opportunities to develop their physical skills and enjoy being in the fresh air. The children were enthusiastically engaged in the garden activities during our visit. Policies/procedures, permissions and recording facilities with regards to medication met with current good practice guidance.

A wide and varied range of fun, interesting and educational activities/resources were available. The childminder had undertaken training and used her learning to provide additional experiences for the children and reduce the amount of plastic resources. These included 'loose parts' and 'tuff trays' providing different materials and textures which encouraged the children to explore and experiment.

The childminder was well aware of her responsibility in ensuring the children in her care were kept safe and operated various policies in her daily practice. She had updated her knowledge and understanding of current guidelines with regards to child protection and safeguarding. She helped the children to understand risk and develop their own staying safe skills.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 6 - excellent

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder provided the children with a safe, clean, inclusive and nurturing environment. The children had access to the lounge, kitchen, upstairs bathroom and garden area.

She ensured the areas used by the children were safe and carried out daily risk assessment checks within her home. Safety precautions were in place including childproof catches on kitchen cupboards and any medication was stored high out of children's reach. Risk assessments were also in place for outings/venues outwith her home. Toys and equipment were in a good state of repair and were regularly checked to ensure they were clean and safe. Parents told us "we feel the toys/environment are stimulating and aids our child's development" and "childminder is very knowledgeable about all safety procedures". Accident/incident recording facilities were available should the need arise and the childminder held a current first aid certificate.

The garden area was fully enclosed and secure. The children enjoyed playing with sand and water activities with metal bowls, whisks, spoons and other items provided for them to pour, mix and develop their skills and imagination. The childminder made use of local facilities to extend the children's experiences. These included a

local wooded area where the children could create dens, collect sticks, leaves etc and practice their balancing skills on fallen trees. Parents advised that the childminder made good use of community resources and were happy that their children attended parent and toddler groups, visited the library and played in local parks.

To help reduce the spread of infection the childminder encouraged the children to wash their hands at appropriate times, for example, before eating and after using the toilet facilities. Appropriate items were provided to help reduce the risk of cross-infection including individual hand drying facilities.

## 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

The childminder continued to maintain and develop the very good service she provided to improve outcomes for the children and their families. She kept up to date with best practice and any changes to legislation through various methods including research, reading, websites, training and contact with other childminders.

She was well aware of the importance of keeping up to date with current best practice and had downloaded and read copies of the most up-to-date good practice guidance publications. She was committed to her own personal development and had undertaken a wide and varied selection of training courses. She discussed and was able to demonstrate how her learning had made changes in her thinking and daily practice, for example, in the activities and resources she provides, food issues and children's behaviour. We provided her with hard copies of the My World Outdoors and Our Creative Journey good practice guidance for easy reading.

The childminder provided parents with information about her service including her policies and procedures which informed her daily practice. These had been reviewed and updated to ensure accurate information about her service. She was registered with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) and was well aware of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). She had developed an information sheet on the storage of data and a data audit and shared these with parents. Her complaints policy informed parents of her procedure should any concerns/issues arise. Parents we consulted with were aware they could raise any concerns with us and told us "we would initially speak to Julie about any complaints/concerns". This told us that positive, trusting relationships had been built up.

Daily exchanges of information took place with parents and the childminder encouraged them to make further comment through evaluation questionnaires, children's progress folders and the online App. She valued feedback and suggestions from both the parents and the children. A parent told us "our views are always taken on board and considered before any changes commence". Simple questionnaires provided opportunity for the children to let her know what they liked and disliked whilst in her care and older children could also reflect on their experiences and record these in a scrapbook to help her evaluate her service/activities.

We suggested that the childminder now use the information gathered through evaluation, self assessment and personal learning to develop a development plan showing her commitment to continuous improvement.

## 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

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

Date	Type	Gradings
22 Jul 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 5 - Very good
6 Sep 2011	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
6 May 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
13 Jun 2008	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good



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