

## Currie, Laura Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 15 May 2019

**Service provided by:**  
Currie, Laura

**Service provider number:**  
SP2014985678

**Care service number:**  
CS2014323774

## 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 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.

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 May 2014.

Mrs Currie provides a childminding service from her home in the village of Annbank. The family home, a detached house, is situated off a side road at the end of the village and is close to local amenities, including shops and the bus route.

The service is registered to care for six children under the age of 16 years of whom no more than three will be under primary school age and no more than one will be under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family. Mrs Currie is currently caring for eight minded children, aged between one to eight years.

Two young minded children were attending the service during the inspection visit. The children were content and happily exploring toys on offer.

A full copy of the childminder's aims and objectives were available. Some of the statements included:

'I aim to provide a warm, friendly, relaxed environment which is homely and safe where the children can develop and learn and also have fun'.

## What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection that took place on Wednesday 15 May 2019 between the hours of 09:20 and 14:45. We provided the childminder with feedback on the day of the inspection.

To assess how well the childminder had been providing care to the children using the service we gathered information from a range of sources. Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) quality indicators were used to ensure a holistic approach. More information about the GIRFEC approach can be found at [www.hubcareinspectorate.com](http://www.hubcareinspectorate.com).

During this inspection process, we looked around the areas of the childminder's home used by the minded children and we gathered evidence from various sources, including the following:

We spoke with:

- The childminder

We looked at:

- Children's information records
- Children's personal plans and special books
- Children's photographs
- Service policies and procedures
- Risk Assessments
- Parental permissions
- Accident and incident records
- Registration certificate
- Insurance certificates
- Medication records
- Resources and toys available
- Training records and certificates
- Displays
- Environmental Health certificate
- ICO Registration and privacy statement
- Facebook pages
- Feedback from parents and children
- Allergen information.

## Views of people using the service

We sent out three care standards questionnaires and asked the childminder to give them to families who used her service. Prior to the inspection, we received three completed questionnaires. All parents strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care the childminder provided. Some of the comments they made included:

'Laura uses a daily diary for us to see how our child gets on each day and we can write any views in there or speak to Laura directly'.

'Laura asks what my child's routine is and if there is any changes'.

'Snacks are always fruit and vegetables, filled along with things my child likes and eats'.

'My child loves the activities and daily routine. Laura is always finding new things to do and this is helping with my child's development'.

'My child gets lots of interaction with toys, learning aids and other kids. Lots of outdoor activities aswell'.

'Laura's home is very safe and child friendly. I am never worried about my child's safety or if my child is bored'.

'Laura has a huge playroom filled with a wide range of toys. She also has a desk and chairs designed for children whereby my child can sit and draw or paint'.

'My child goes to the library, toddler and play groups, the park and much more!'.

'Laura is a great childminder. She always keeps the children safe and happy'.

'My child goes to Bookbug, outdoor parks and walks'.

'Laura provides an excellent service. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend. My child is always excited and happy at both drop off and pick up, which is very reassuring. We are always kept informed with a daily diary'.

## Self assessment

We received a completed self-assessment document from the childminder. This contained information which identified strengths within the service.

## What the service did well

The childminder was working effectively with parents to plan appropriate care and support to meet children's individual needs.

The childminder was kind and caring in her approach, supporting the young children present at inspection to feel safe, secure and relaxed.

The childminder was providing a wide variety of valuable experiences to promote children's development and learning.

## What the service could do better

The childminder should update her infection control policy and ensure her practice fully reflects this.

The childminder should expand her risk assessments for areas accessed outwith the home environment to include all potential hazards. This will enable her to put in place any additional control measures required.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 – Very Good
Quality of environment	6 – Excellent
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 – Very Good

## Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder had established very good relationships with children and families. She communicated regularly with parents through daily discussions, personal plan reviews, diaries and through an open and closed Facebook page. This enables the childminder to keep parents well informed and meet the children's individual needs. On questionnaires returned from parents, comments included 'Laura asks for my input in the development plan. She also asks for comments in my child's daily diary. As well as this, we communicate verbally on a daily basis on my child's progress and needs'. We found that systems in place to involve parents were impacting positively on care provided to children.

The childminder had gathered information from parents and used this to inform a personal planning approach. Plans in place were reflective of individual children with some identified next steps. Progress was captured and evident within the plans. We asked the childminder to include more information on children's routines and made some suggestions to improve tracking system in place. The childminder used scrapbooks to effectively document children's experiences and was sharing these regularly with parents. We asked the childminder to consider ways to capture the child's voice within their special books.

The childminder demonstrated that she knew the children well. Activities were well planned, based on children's interests and developmental stages. During inspection, we observed the two young children present happily exploring the resources on offer, fully supported by the childminder.

The childminder was nurturing and calm in her approach, supporting the children to feel safe and secure. One of the children present used single words and hand gestures to communicate they wanted to sing throughout our visit. The childminder responded enthusiastically singing along with the child, modelling actions. The child eagerly joined in and appeared to be enjoying the experience. The childminder sat alongside the children as they played, using appropriate language to support their comprehension. We found that very good opportunities were provided to build on children's communication and language skills. Comments from parents confirmed that children were making good progress in their development.

Children's health and wellbeing were actively promoted through healthy snacks and regular access to outdoors. At the very minimum, children were given daily opportunities to fresh air and exercise through walking to pick children up from the school bus drop off. Snacks provided were always nutritious and healthy. Comments from parents included 'Laura provides snacks such as fruit, pancakes and yoghurt. I have never been dissatisfied with any of the snacks provided'. The childminder was sharing allergen information on foods provided to parents and was registered with appropriate bodies and preparing food safely.

The childminder had a very good understanding of her responsibilities for safeguarding children and kept her knowledge up-to-date through regular training. We looked at the systems in place to ensure safe administration of medication. The childminder spoke confidently about her procedures, which she had shared with parents. We asked the childminder to update her policy in line with best practice guidance, with relation to storage of medication.

### Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 – very good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder provided an excellent environment for children. The home was warm, welcoming and clean with comfortable spaces for children to relax and play. The main area used for minding was the playroom, where children had ample space to relax on the soft furnishings or actively engage in floor play. Personal touches had been added to the room to create a sense of belonging. This included individual pegs for children to leave their things from home and displays of children's work and experiences.

Resources and toys were readily available and accessible for the children, encouraging independence. During inspection, we observed the children present confidently making their own choices. Toys were fun and interesting for the children to play with. We observed one of the children meaningfully engaged in block play for an extended period of time. The other child enjoyed moving from one area of the room to the other, exploring the different toys on offer.

Within the playroom, the childminder used a table and high chair for snacks and mealtimes. We observed the children having a snack during our visit. The children sat comfortably and appeared to enjoy snacks provided.

The childminder had a good-sized back garden which was fully enclosed enabling children to play safely. Outdoors children had access to a very good range of resources promoting their physical development. This was further supported through regular walks and visits to local parks. The childminder told us she sometimes did baby yoga with the children. Comments from parents confirmed that the children enjoyed this activity. Further opportunities were provided to promote children's development through attending different groups and places within the local community. This included playgroup, toddlers, messy play, Bookbug and the museum. The childminder was providing excellent opportunities to broaden children's experiences.

The childminder told us how she carried out regular cleaning and safety checks to minimise risks to children. We found that while the childminder had some good infection control procedures in place, her practice did not fully reflect best practice guidance. We asked the childminder to further update her infection control policy and procedures. We sampled risk assessments and asked the childminder to further develop risk assessments for areas accessed outwith her home environment. This will enable the childminder to identify all potential hazards and put in place any additional control measures to minimise risks to children.

The childminder had five pet cats and one rabbit. The childminder had effectively considered measures required to ensure hygiene was maintained and that children were safe.

We asked the childminder how children slept within her home. The childminder told us she used a travel cot and the children's pushchairs. The childminder demonstrated a good awareness of safe sleeping practice and was carrying out appropriate checks to ensure children's safety.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 6 – excellent

## Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

At this inspection, we considered how the childminder evaluated the service, made improvements and kept informed of best practice guidance and legislation. We gathered evidence through viewing records and discussions on training and development opportunities. The childminder was a member of the SCMA and used some of their standard of documentation to support her service. Information maintained by the childminder was well organised and updated regularly supporting a smooth running service.

We asked the childminder about training she had attended from her previous inspection. The childminder had attended various courses including first aid and child protection. She had also completed relevant e-learning modules which included food hygiene, infection control, managing safety in health and sensory play. The childminder told us she accessed the hub frequently and looked at Facebook pages linked to childminding. We sampled some evidence during inspection to suggest that learning undertaken was having positive impact on children's experiences, particularly in relation to loose parts play.

We asked the childminder to tell us about how she was using self-evaluation to improve the service. The childminder regularly consulted with parents through verbal feedback, questionnaires, meetings and through messenger. All feedback sampled was very positive with parents very happy with service provided. Comments in cards received from parents included 'You have been an amazing childminder'. We found that good opportunities were being provided routinely for parents to share their views.

We asked the childminder if she had registered her service with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and found she had. The childminder had devised a privacy statement for parents outlining how data was being collated, shared and stored within the service. This ensures that data being processed by the childminder is done so fairly and lawfully.

During our inspection, we asked to look at the daily attendance register and found that the childminder had recorded children's names and expected times. We asked the childminder to record accurate times children are in the service to show the total number of children in the childminder's home at any one time.

We found that information needed to meet statutory requirements such as public liability insurance and car insurance were in place.

## 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	
29 Apr 2015	2	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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