

# Elizabeth's Childminding Service

## Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 14 October 2019

**Service provided by:**  
Kane, Elizabeth

**Service provider number:**  
SP2012984182

**Care service number:**  
CS2012312547

## Introduction

This service has been registered with the Care Inspectorate since 15 July 2013.

Elizabeth Kane trading as Elizabeth's Childminding Service and referred to as the childminder throughout this report, provides a small childminding service. The service is registered to provide a care service to 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. The numbers are inclusive of the childminders own family. Other conditions unique to the service: Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate. Overnight care will not be provided.

The childminder provides her childminding service from her home in Denny. The areas used for childminding purposes in the family home included the lounge, kitchen, playroom and toilet. The children had access to the garden area to the rear of the property and amenities in the local community providing opportunities for children to be active and socialise with their peers.

The childminder's statement of aims and objectives for the service included "I aim to provide a childminding service for children of all ages. I will provide a happy, loving, safe and secure environment for the children in my care on a daily basis. I also aim to provide the children with stimulating, age appropriate play activities and toys." A fuller statement can be found in the service information pack.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). This is 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. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators. Information on SHANARRI can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

## What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following a short notice inspection. This was carried out by one Early Learning and childcare inspector on Monday 14 October 2019. We visited between 09:15 and 11:30. We provided feedback to the childminder at the end of the inspection process.

As part of the inspection, we took account of the annual return that we asked the childminder to complete and submit to us. We provided our contact details to the childminder to distribute to parents. One parent sent an email providing feedback about the quality of the service.

During the inspection we gathered evidence from several sources, including the following:

We spoke with:

- the children present
- the childminder.

We observed and viewed:

- the environment
- the childminder's practice and interactions with the children
- the children playing.

We looked at the following evidence:

- children's records.
- policies and procedures
- administration of medication recording format
- photographs of children's experiences
- accident incident recording format
- registration certificate
- Public liability insurance certificate.

We took account of the above information when we evaluated the service and wrote this report. Please note that parents and carers will be referred to as parents throughout the report.

## Views of people using the service

The two children present were happy and relaxed in the service choosing from a range of activities. The children told us about some of the traditional games they played including hopscotch, making squares and treasure hunts. When attending during the holidays, they enjoyed trips using public transport to activity centres and as a treat enjoyed going out for pizza. After school children used the library encouraging an interest in books and visited local shops learning about money. Children were supported to achieve and build confidence being included in the games.

We provided our contact details to the childminder to distribute to parents. One parent contacted us giving their views about the service. They said:

'I am very happy with the care given to my boys by Liz when I'm working. They are happy there and have always felt settled and at ease, almost like a home from home. I would highly recommend her and glad she had space for my boys.'

## Self assessment

We did not receive a self assessment from the childminder before this inspection. The self assessment allows the childminder to review and evaluate the service, identifying strengths and areas for development. The childminder should ensure that a self assessment is completed when requested to by the Care Inspectorate and submitted within the timescales given.

## What the service did well

The childminder communicated effectively with parents to agree the care and support that met children's individual needs. Awareness of children's interests and preferences meant that activities were planned to support them to achieve and build confidence. For example, children told us they enjoyed being included in traditional games. They benefitted from their childminding experience by being shown warmth, kindness and compassion. A homely environment supported children to have a sense of belonging, to relax and have fun.

What the service could do better

The childminder was evaluating snacks in the service aiming to introduce healthier options and to raise awareness of hidden salt and sugar in foods. She was aware of current practice guidance Setting the Table and Food Matters to improve the snack menu so that children were offered healthier options. The childminder was at an early stage of developing self-evaluation in the setting. She was measuring outcomes for children using wellbeing indicators to reflect on how the service supported children to be safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible and included. We discussed how the personal plan for each child could be developed further to show how children's changing needs are being met.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Children benefitted from a warm, kind and compassionate childminding experience supporting them to feel secure, respected and loved. Effective communication resulted in children's individual needs being met and their interests and preferences informing the activities that they enjoyed. Positive relationships were developed, and separation anxieties minimised so that children felt safe and secure in the service. Children told us about the variety of games and activities that supported them to achieve, develop confidence and self-esteem and to have fun.

Children were supported to be active through a range of outdoor activities including outings to the park and during holidays trips on public transport to activity centres. These opportunities supported risky play activities for children who were developing social and physical skills, confidence, self-esteem and creativity as a result. The childminder was evaluating the provision of snacks in the service aiming to introduce healthier options and to raise awareness of hidden salt and sugar in foods. The childminder was aware of current practice guidance Setting the Table and Food Matters to support the development of practice. The childminder aimed to support children to develop healthy eating habits and a healthy relationship with food. Involvement in daily tasks including tidying and preparing snacks meant children were becoming responsible and engaging in meaningful activities that supported them to develop life skills.

The childminder took steps to protect the children in her care meeting their health, welfare and safety needs. She demonstrated a knowledge and understanding of child protection, appropriately recorded accidents and incidents and had formats in place to record the administration of medication.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 – good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

A homely environment with comfortable areas supported children to relax and achieve through a range of fun activities. They felt a sense of belonging in the family home and were included in art and craft activities and a range of age appropriate games. The childminder provided opportunities for children to enjoy the freedom to explore the natural outdoor environment through access to walks, parks and the garden. Children developed confidence and resilience as a result. The childminder aimed to continue to develop open-ended play opportunities for the children in her care taking account of current practice guidance found in the Care Inspectorate Hub.

The childminder managed her environment well to promote children's safety and wellbeing. For example, she carried out risk assessments and put measures in place to reduce hazards. She was aware of good practice in infection and promoted good hand hygiene with the children. We saw that resources were clean, safe and suitable for the different stages and interests of children attending the service. This contributed to children's health and wellbeing.

The childminder was aware of good practice guidance that supports evaluation and development of the environment and experiences for children. We have referenced some of the guidance as follows:

My World Outdoors – available at [www.hub.careinspectorate.com](http://www.hub.careinspectorate.com)

Loose Parts Play – available at [www.inspiringscotland.org.uk](http://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk)

Our creative journey available at [www.hub.careinspectorate.com](http://www.hub.careinspectorate.com)

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 – good

## Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder used her skills, knowledge and experience to ensure that children received good quality care resulting in positive outcomes. She maintained records and personal plans to a good standard, reviewed information with parents and was aware of children's current needs and next steps in learning. We discussed how she could continue to improve how she records children's next steps and the review of children's care and support.

The childminder had developed her knowledge and understanding of childcare issues through access to relevant publications. For example, she was aware of the most recent publications and was in the process of evaluating and developing practice. The childminders awareness of current practice and her experience in delivering a childminding service reassured families and gave them confidence that the service was managed well, and children's wellbeing was supported. We discussed how the childminder could continue to develop self-evaluation using good practice guidance that will support the process including:

Your Childminding Journey available at [www.childmindingjourney.scot](http://www.childmindingjourney.scot)  
My Childminding Experience available at [www.hub.careinspectorate.com](http://www.hub.careinspectorate.com)  
National Health and Social Care Standards - available at [www.scot.gov.uk](http://www.scot.gov.uk)

The childminder regularly reviewed and developed her policies and procedures ensuring that they reflected practice in the service that supported the health, wellbeing and safety of children. Parents said they were aware of the complaint policy but felt that they would be able to discuss any issues with the childminder.

### Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

### Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 4 – 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
24 Aug 2015	Announced (short notice)	<div>Care and support</div> <div>Environment</div> <div>Staffing</div> <div>Management and leadership</div> <div>4 - Good</div> <div>4 - Good</div> <div>Not assessed</div> <div>4 - Good</div>
25 Jul 2014	Unannounced	<div>Care and support</div> <div>Environment</div> <div>Staffing</div> <div>Management and leadership</div> <div>4 - Good</div> <div>4 - Good</div> <div>Not assessed</div> <div>3 - Adequate</div>

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