

# Out n About Childminding Service Child Minding

East Linton

**Type of inspection:**  
Announced (short notice)

**Completed on:**  
2 June 2021

**Service provided by:**  
Diane Karpacz

**Service provider number:**  
SP2019990609

**Service no:**  
CS2019375696

## About the service

The childminding service is operated by Diane Karpacz. The service operates under the business name of Out n About Childminding Service. The childminder is registered with the Care Inspectorate with the following conditions:

The childminder may care for a maximum of 7 children up to 16 years of age these numbers include the children of the childminder's family: of those 7, no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school; of those 3 no more than 1 is under 12 months.

Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.

No overnight care will be provided.

The childminder provides the service from their family home in the village of East Linton in East Lothian. The childminder uses the ground floor of the semi-detached home. Children used the conservatory as the main play area but also had access to the living room. Children used the safe back garden for outdoor play but also used community spaces and local resources such as the nearby beach, country parks and woodland walks.

Aims and objects for the service were developed as part of the registration process. Aims included:

'As a registered childminder Out n About aims to provide a professional childcare service within a safe, caring and nurturing environment and promote children's development to their full potential.

Providing a happy and fun setting, children will progress through the stages of child development in all areas. Learning through play enhances physical, social, emotional growth.

Parental input from parents will be welcomed to ensure transition from home to childcare is smooth.

Our main focus will be on outdoor activities led by the children. We have lots of beautiful countryside on our doorstep which we will take full advantage of as well as introducing a mud kitchen to our garden to encourage messy play. Whilst indoors we will again encourage children led play, games, crafts and baking.'

This was a focussed inspection to evaluate how well children were being supported during the Covid-19 pandemic. We evaluated the service based on key areas that are vital to the support and wellbeing of children experiencing care during the pandemic. This inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

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.

## What people told us

There were three children present during our visit. Children were relaxed and engaged in a range of play activities outdoors. They sought reassurance and assistance easily from the childminder during our visit and appeared to be very happy and secure in her care.

We asked the childminder to share our contact details to gain views and comments. We were contacted by one parent using the childminding service. Positive comments were made about the childminder and the service she provides. The parent commented on the positive relationships with children that the childminder had fostered, and the activities which took place with children.

## From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	4 - Good
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Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

## How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?

4 - Good

### Quality Indicator 5.1: Children's health and wellbeing are supported and safeguarded during Covid-19.

During the inspection, children were supported in a warm and nurturing way. The childminder had developed supportive relationships with children and responded positively to their verbal and non-verbal communications. Children went easily to her to seek assistance or reassurance which further evidenced positive relationships.

The settling in process described met current good practice guidance. The childminder had taken account of how Covid-19 had impacted on children's social experiences and tailored the settling in process to suit each individual child. The childminder knew children in her care well and had used the All About Me format to gather information about children's individual needs and routines. The childminder had a good understanding of the wellbeing indicators and actively used these to assess outcomes for children in her service. Information had been gathered to form a basic personal plan and we spoke about the need to now develop this document to include some of the support strategies the childminder had in place for some children.

The childminder was able to tell us about how she had supported families' individual circumstances throughout the pandemic. This included being flexible about care arrangements to support consistency for children. The childminder used an online tool to provide information for parents. This included what children were doing while at the childminders home, information on procedures and plans for the service.

The childminder was confident in her role and responsibilities for protecting children and keeping them safe. She spoke confidently about this role and the action she would take if any concerns over a child's health or well-being should arise. The childminder reflected on the potential impact of Covid-19 on children and their families and had undertaken a good range of child protection training to support her knowledge.

We observed children having fun in the childminder's secure back garden which was accessed directly from the conservatory/playroom. The childminder had begun a childcare qualification which was increasing her understanding of play and learning. The childminder told us she that as well as her garden she used local parks, woods, and the wider community to encourage children to be active. These outdoor experiences helped to reduce any possible risk to spreading infection indoors and widen children's play experiences.

### Quality Indicator 5.2: Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff.

The childminder demonstrated an understanding of the current guidance regarding infection, prevention, and control. This was reflected in the risk assessments, which supported the safe operation of the business during the pandemic. The childminder understood the need for ventilation, and children were spending an increased amount of time outdoors.

The childminder was aware of the signs and symptoms of Covid-19 and advised us of the procedures she would use should a child in her care become unwell. The childminder had personal protective equipment (PPE) and could describe when she should use this.

Children were supported in hand hygiene practices at key points during the day. The children used soap

paper towels. This helped to lower the risk of transmission. We reminded the childminder about the need to take account of good practice during the serving of snack to enhance infection prevention and control at this time.

The childminder had developed regular cleaning routines and the home was clean and resources well maintained. This ensured that children experienced a clean and safe environment. The conservatory/ playroom provided a variety of resources which children could access independently. Soft furnishings had been reduced and any that remained were washed regularly to prevent any potential risk of infection.

## Detailed evaluations

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	4 - Good
5.1 Children's health and well being are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19	4 - Good
5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff	4 - Good

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