

# Beard, Luise Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 13 August 2021

**Service provided by:**

**Service provider number:**  
SP2008970058

**Care service number:**  
CS2008190654

## Introduction

The service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 23 February 2010.

Mrs Beard is registered 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 three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the children of the childminder's family. The childminder's home is situated in a residential area of a town within walking distance of local amenities, play park and woodland walks.

The aims and objectives of the service include:

to provide a happy, caring, friendly and homely environment, this will allow children to learn and develop while having fun

to provide age-appropriate indoor and outdoor stimulating activities, and encourage each child to be imaginative in their play

to work closely with parents to provide as individual a service as possible.

## What we did during our inspection

We compiled the report following an unannounced site visit to the service on 3 August 2021. During this inspection we spoke to the childminder and two children and observed the care given by the childminder. We completed the inspection using e-mail to seek the views of parents, and viewed written documentation, including health and wellbeing records, electronically. The inspection was carried out by one inspector.

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 (also known as SHANARRI).

As part of this inspection, we took into consideration Key Question 5 - Operating an early learning and childcare setting (including out of school care and childminders) during Covid-19 with a specific focus on Quality indicator 5.2: Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff. We will report on the overall performance of this indicator in Theme 1 Quality Care and Support.

## Views of people using the service

Parents told us that they were very happy with the service. The childminder was in continuous contact with them and shared information readily which supported continuity of care. The childminder did lots of different things with the children and had got to know them well. Parents considered that their child was always safe and well cared for.

It was difficult to ascertain the views of the children. A child told us that they liked going to the park and playing outside. A younger child showed us the pots that strawberries had grown in and also tomatoes and told us how they had picked them and had taken some home.

## Self assessment

Not requested

## What the service did well

The childminder provided a warm, nurturing service; they knew the children well and was supporting their development. Children played outside most days both in the garden and within the local community. They were happy and comfortable, and clearly enjoyed the company of the childminder. The childminder had established positive relationships with parents and was flexible to meet the needs of families.

## What the service could do better

The childminder involved parents in a formal and comprehensive review of the child's care plan to enhance a holistic approach to wellbeing, by affirming that all information remains accurate.

The childminder intended to refresh child protection training so that their knowledge and understanding remained up to date and sound to safeguard children.

We suggested that the childminder recorded changes to the service as they occurred to support continuous improvement. Continued use of good practice guidance would also help to enhance outcomes for children.

## 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

The childminder's natural and responsive approach towards the children supported them to settle well and build confidence. A child had only recently started at the service and was building a relationship with the childminder. Children that had been attending for some time had formed secure attachments; they were clearly comfortable in their surroundings, happy and relaxed.

The childminder knew or was getting to know children's needs, preferences and personalities well. Regular communication with parents helped to ensure that the childminder kept up to date with any changes that impacted on the children. Parents told us that they were happy with the level of information shared; frequent discussions with the childminder helped to keep their child's needs up to date. However, we advised the childminder that involving parents in a formal and comprehensive review of the child's care plan would enhance a holistic approach to wellbeing by affirming that all information was accurate.

The childminder had a very good understanding of GIRFEC and was clear on how to access additional support for children. Some information about individual children and their progress was recorded; the SHANARRI indicators were also used. We suggested this could be developed to reflect the more comprehensive information that was shared through discussions with parents and any action taken as a result.

The childminder listened respectfully to the children and helped to make children's activities safe, fun and enjoyable. They had a good understanding of each child's stage of development and was clear on how they could support children's progression. For example, children were able to explore and find things out for themselves, pouring their own bubble liquid into different containers and matching up the lids. The childminder recognised the benefits of outdoor play in the fresh air to support children's health and wellbeing. They undertook outings on a daily basis to parks and woodland walks.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children. Such as, children being supported to wash their hands well, including after nappy changing, and good ventilation of the premises.

The childminder planned to undertake refresher training in child protection to help ensure that her knowledge and understanding was up to date. We suggested that undertaking training provided by the local authority would provide a local perspective.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 4 - good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

Children benefited from being cared for in a secure, clean and homely environment. Such as, young children sleeping in travel cot upstairs, that supported them to have uninterrupted sleep in a safe and comfy environment. The childminder kept the premises and activities under regular review to assess risk.

The childminder had completed first aid training to ensure that they had appropriate knowledge to treat children should an accident occur. The childminder had a suitable format for recording accidents/incidents to ensure that correct information was held and exchanged with parents/carers.

Children were being cared for in a suitable and comfortable environment that contributed to their confidence and wellbeing. Space was being well utilised; the arrangement of furniture in the main lounge enabled children to enjoy floor activities such as; play sets and construction. A table was used for creative activities such as baking, painting and drawing.

Children had been to the park just prior to the inspection and spoke about climbing and going down a big slide. Children chose to play outside in the fully enclosed garden for the majority of the inspection. The childminder supervised the children well whilst enabling them to try things for themselves, explore and be active. Children had short bounces on the trampoline and really enjoyed bubble play together. Children had been able to learn about growing different fruits. A young child told us how they had picked lots of strawberries and made milk shakes and how they had grown and picked tomatoes.

A toddler spent some time trying to attach a lid to a container, the noise made by a bungie attached to the bins also created some interest. An increase in open ended, natural and real-life resources both indoors and outdoors would provide children with wider opportunities to investigate and problem solve. We suggested, good practice documents such as, loose parts toolkit, my world outdoors and our creative journey - [hub.careinspectorate.com](http://hub.careinspectorate.com) may be helpful.

## 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

Information from the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and the Care Inspectorate supported the childminder to keep up to date with new initiatives.

The childminder had completed some training with a view to improvement. The childminder had renewed her first aid training and was arranging refresher training in child protection; it helped her to meet children's health needs and keep them safe. The childminder's level three qualification provided her with an understanding of child development that supported her in encouraging children's progression. The childminder had completed training courses on GIRFEC and building the ambition and putting it into practice. They considered that this had assured and informed their understanding of GIRFEC; the SHANARRI indicators were being used when recording children's development and progress.

We suggested that the childminder used a simple improvement plan to record changes. This could be as a result of suggestions from parents and/or children, training or reading best practice guidance. Continued use of good practice guidance would support reflection and practice, with a view to enhancing outcomes for children - [hub.careinspectorate.com](http://hub.careinspectorate.com) The childminder had issued a questionnaire to parents to seek their

views the previous year, but none had been returned. We discussed how improvement could be a continuous process and also how a change to the content and format of the annual parental questionnaire, may be beneficial.

Records were well organised, meaningful information was readily accessible. The childminder had developed relevant policies that supported her in running the service and provided a basis for evaluation. These were shared with parents so that they knew what to expect from the service.

The childminder provided a flexible service that met the needs of families well. She clearly enjoyed caring for children. Parents told us how they were very happy with the service provided and how much their child enjoyed attending. The childminder had formed positive and meaningful relationships with them and their child.

## 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

### Recommendation 1

To support the development of the service and ensure children receive high quality early learning and childcare, the childminder should access training and development opportunities and extend her knowledge of best practice. Her learning from this should then be used to develop the service further.

This ensures care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state 'I receive high quality care based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice.' (HSCS 4.11)

This recommendation was made on 5 December 2019.

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had accessed training to extend her knowledge of national guidance related to GIRFEC and how it was associated to practice. Documentation provided a reflective account of children's progress.

## 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 Oct 2019	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
27 Oct 2015	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 5 - Very good
22 Sep 2011	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 4 - Good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
18 Oct 2010	Announced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed

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Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

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