

# Nikola Wood Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Announced (short notice)  
Inspection completed on: 22 July 2021

**Service provided by:**

**Service provider number:**  
SP2018989995

**Care service number:**  
CS2018367880

## Introduction

Nikola Wood (referred to as 'the childminder' throughout this report) is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is less than 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the children of the childminder's family and household. Overnight service will not be provided and minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.

The children have access to the kitchen, sitting room, down stairs bathroom and a fully enclosed garden. The childminder's home is situated in Jedburgh, Scottish Borders and is close to local amenities including the primary school, nursery and local parks.

The aims and objectives as stated by the childminder included;  
As a registered childminder I am very passionate in delivering the best service to families as possible. Therefore I will strive to:

- create a safe home from home environment for your child.
- provide stimulating age/stage appropriate activities to enable your child to learn, develop and grow through play at a level that is suitable to them.
- recognise each child as an individual and gear activities around their interests and abilities.
- encourage creativity, self expression and imagination through various games and activities.
- promote positive behaviour through praise, encouragement and guidance. By modelling positive behaviour myself to promote social skills, encouraging courteous behaviour and respect for others.
- develop moral values that promote consideration for individuals and cultural differences.
- promote a healthy diet and encourage your child to learn about their own health and wellbeing.

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.

During this inspection we also evaluated 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.

## What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report following an unannounced inspection, which took place on Thursday 15 July 2021 between 11:30 and 13:00. At this time no minded children were at the service. A further site visit took place on 22 July 2021 between 10:30 and 12:15 to observe practice and provide feedback to the childminder

We spoke to:

- the childminder
- the child present.

We observed the childminder's practice and looked around the areas of her home used for childminding. We viewed some records on site that included personal plans, risk assessments and various policies and procedures.

## Views of people using the service

One minded child was happy and comfortable in the care of the childminder. The relaxed atmosphere meant that children had fun and experienced positive interactions with the childminder. A range of toys and games were readily available so children could choose what they wanted to do.

Parents were happy with the service provided by the childminder. They valued the range of communication in place which meant they were well informed about what their children were doing every day. They liked that children were able to be outdoors and explore the environment especially the local woodland area.

They feel comfortable making suggestions about their child's care and feel that the childminder is friendly and approachable.

## Self assessment

The childminder had previously submitted a Key Question 5 self-evaluation. This contained a range of information about how she supported children and families during Covid-19.

## What the service did well

The childminder interacted with the minded child in a kind, caring and supportive way. She knew them well which meant she provided activities that interested them and supported their development.

She enjoyed taking the children out and about into the wider community, she understood the benefits of outdoor play. She had a range of policies and procedures in place to keep the children safe.

## What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to develop the evaluation of her service.

## 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 experienced positive and warm relationships with the childminder. They were clearly comfortable and at home in the setting. This nurturing approach encouraged them to feel safe and secure in the service.

The childminder had gathered detailed information about the children for their personal care plan. Their developmental needs and observations were clearly recorded. Photo albums showed parents the progress their child was making and next steps were identified using the GIRFEC quality indicators. This meant the childminder was supporting each child to reach their potential. To further support children, the childminder should document any detailed strategies to support children's development and wellbeing.

Families were included in the childminders service. In the past, families had been to an open afternoon, and were regularly asked for the feedback on the service provided. The childminder used a variety of means to share information with parents and kept them well informed. Parents confirmed that telephone calls, messaging and on-line diaries kept them up to date with their child's day and the service provided.

Healthy lifestyles were encouraged through healthy eating and active play. The childminder provided all snacks for children that included fruit. A policy ensured parents were aware of the expectations around healthy eating. The childminder used meal times as a sociable time where children were encouraged to become independent and chat about their day.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children. These included supporting children with hand washing, enhanced cleaning and introducing doorstep drop off and pick ups. Written procedures and risk assessment had been shared with parents based on national guidance. This ensured families were aware of the changes made to the setting and helped to keep them safe through the pandemic.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 4 - good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The minded child we met was settled and having fun in their play and progressing well in their development. The childminder's provided a homely and welcoming environment. The layout of the childminder's home and the storage of resources enabled children to be independent and make choices about where and what they played with. The childminder described the established systems she had in place to ensure the environment was clean, hygienic and safe for children.

The childminder was keen to promote an ethos of outdoor play and learning both in the garden and wider community which included local woodland and parks. In-line with current Covid-19 guidance, she ensured children were outdoors every day. The garden was well used by children and they enjoyed experimenting with sensory play resources that included sand, water and the mud kitchen. The childminder developing her professional knowledge around outdoor play and was about to attend a training course. She was keen to implement this training and develop this aspect of her service.

The childminder discussed developing resources to include more open ended 'loose parts' play materials. We agreed with this area for improvement that would provide children with further challenge and interest in their play and promote creativity. 'Loose parts' are materials that can be used freely and allow children to use their imagination. More information can be found on the "Play Scotland" website.

Children were protected as the childminder took all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection. Risk assessment had been undertaken that addressed areas within current Covid-19 guidance. Parents confirmed that policies and procedures had been shared with them to ensure a shared understanding and a consistent approach.

### 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

This was the childminder's first inspection since registration. She had started to evaluate her service and was committed to providing a good service. She regularly asked parents for feedback and told us that she would make changes to her service if required. She had developed policies, procedures and risk assessments to support her service and the needs of the children.

The childminder was keen to develop her professional learning and had undertaken various training courses that included child protection and first aid. During the inspection she described developing her knowledge about outdoor play and had applied to participate in a training course. She was enthusiastic about using the skills and knowledge she gained from the course to develop her service and build children's confidence through managing risk.

Parents confirmed they were informed of changes to the childminding service throughout the pandemic. The childminder ensured she built up positive relationships with the families using her service. This meant that parents were comfortable about sharing information and the childminder could meet children's needs in a child centred manner.

The childminder had completed key question 5 which was designed to support services to self-evaluate how well they performed during the Covid-19 pandemic. She had used this document to share examples of what she was providing for children as well as areas for further development.

The childminder was committed to providing high quality care that ensured good outcomes for children. This supportive and caring environment ensured that children's wellbeing and confidence was promoted and helped them learn and achieve. To further develop her service the childminder should obtain a copy of the Early Learning and Childcare Quality Framework which will be used as part of the inspection process to assess the impact care and learning is making to children. She should become familiar with this document and begin to use it when evaluating her service.

## 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

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

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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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