

# CLR Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 23 August 2021

**Service provided by:**

**Service provider number:**  
SP2019990423

**Care service number:**  
CS2019373675

## Introduction

CLR Childminding registered with the care inspectorate on 29 April 2019. The service is provided by Catherine Robertson. It provides a day care of children service to a maximum of seven children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than six are under the age of 12, 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 childminder's family.

The service operates from the childminder's home situated in Dyce, a residential area of Aberdeen. The childminder takes children to local amenities including parks, community classes and shops. The home is spacious, tidy, and well organised with a dedicated area for children to play in. The garden is accessed from the kitchen area and provided good outdoor space for children in all weathers.

The aims of the service included:

"It is my aim to provide the best possible care for each individual child's needs, providing him/her with toys and activities suitable for their age and stage of development, creating opportunities for discovery through play, as well as stimulating imagination through creative activities. Each child will be welcomed and valued as an individual and can expect to be treated equally, fairly and with respect always. I will alongside parents/carers as partners in providing quality care for their children, and in all professional liaisons, I will respect the parents/carers role in the life of their child."

## What we did during our inspection

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.

The Care Inspectorate 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 services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included.

## Views of people using the service

There was one child present at the time of the inspection aged two years. We observed the child and saw that they were happy and comfortable in the care of the childminder. They had the freedom to move around the accessible areas of the home and garden and choose activities and play they would like to get involved with. We talked to the child during their play, and they told us about their painting and showed us how they played in the sand in the garden.

We received feedback from parents using virtual technology. They told us that they were very happy with the service they received. Communication between the childminder and parents was helpful and provided real time updates on the child's day. Parents were very happy with the personalised support and care they received for their child.

"Catherine is very approachable and open to discussing any issue relating to our daughter's care."

"The 'All About Me' info sheets were completed before my daughter started so I was able to share some key info about her likes and dislikes. She is very accommodating and knows our daughter's personality really well and regularly shares photos of the activities as they take place."

"Catherine goes over and above to support our daughter with a healthy and varied diet."

"My daughter is completely besotted with Catherine and is always excited to visit. We couldn't be happier with her service this year and look forward to the years to come and watch as our daughter grows."

## Self assessment

The childminder completed self-evaluation and submitted this to us before the inspection. This showed that she had a good knowledge of policies and procedures and guidance that should be followed. As the childminder's business grows, she should extend herself a valuation procedures and methods, including how to involve children.

## What the service did well

The childminder knew children in her care very well. Interactions were warm, kind, and respectful. She worked closely with children and families to provide individual care that was relevant to each child's needs. Children were well supported to achieve. The childminder had made a very good start to her childminding business and was keen to keep up-to-date and use best practice to care for children.

## What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to use professional learning opportunities to develop and adapt her service to meet the changing needs of children. As the service continues to grow a wider range of methods used for feedback and self-evaluation would be beneficial.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
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 built a positive relationship with minded children and knew their needs, likes and dislikes well. Her interactions were thoughtful and supportive and encouraged children to develop their learning, skills and independence in a nurturing and secure environment.

Personal plans detailed children's routines, likes, and wishes, as well as information to keep them safe. These were created and reviewed with parents which helped ensure information was meaningful. The childminder used this information to help create routines and activities for individual children. Personal plans should now be further developed to include goals or areas where more support may be needed.

Communication with families strengthened meeting children's needs. Regular contact was maintained through short handover chats that were strengthened by the use of an online family app. This gave the opportunity for real time, two way information and pictures of the child's day. Parents told us that they found this very helpful and supportive.

Children experienced positive mealtimes. Healthy snacks were provided by the childminder who had worked closely with parents to ensure these met with children's individual healthy eating needs. Parents choose to provide main meals by packed lunch, which was well supported. Meal times were at a dining table with the childminder and provided a safe and social experience.

The childminder understood her responsibility to protect children from harm. She was aware of signs that could indicate children were at risk and knew who to get support from if unsure on actions to take. The childminder should now build more confidence and knowledge in this area of safeguarding and child protection.

Children's development is supported through access to a range of activities and experiences provided. We could see that children were progressing well and were enjoying number and counting activities. The childminder kept a record of children's learning through observation and tracking of milestones using the family app. It would benefit children further if the childminder now progressed her knowledge of the curriculum.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and staff. For example, children are supported to understand the need for good hygiene and effective use is made of pictures and activities such as songs and rhymes to encourage a fun approach to this. Clear expectations are set around children remaining at home when unwell.

### Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

### Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 5 - very good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The children were cared for in a relaxed, welcoming, and peaceful environment which contributed positively to their experience.

The garden area was viewed as safe and secure with fencing all around and allowed children the freedom to play freely under supervision. A range of equipment was available such as a Wendy house, slide and water play. A well sized grassy area allowed children freedom to have space to explore. We would encourage the childminder to add loose parts to the play opportunities outdoors.

The child present enjoyed time outdoors in the garden when we visited. They enjoyed digging in the sand pit and were interested in spiders found on the garden fence. These learning moments were encouraged by the childminder who interacted with the child to extend conversation and interest.

A dedicated playroom indoors allowed children to have the freedom to play and explore in their own way. A large selection of toys were available that also met the interest of the children attending. The childminder told us about other toys and equipment that she has stored to suit the different ages of children who may attend. The child enjoyed painting during our visit and spoke to us how they had made 'lots of pictures.'

The childminder had a well maintained and clean kitchen. She practiced safe hygiene and kept appropriate hygiene records. Food that was provided by the childminder took into consideration the ages, stages and healthy eating needs of children attending. The child present was encouraged to wash their hands before and after meals. This supported children to be healthy and develop an understanding about personal hygiene.

### Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

### Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 5 - very good

## Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

## Quality of management and leadership

## Findings from the inspection

The childminder was well organised and committed to the development of her service.

The childminder was a member of Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) which helped her keep up-to-date with best practice. She was aware of the Care Inspectorate Hub and other resources as a way of accessing guidance and practice documents and keeping up-to-date. The childminder had been concentrating on the changing guidance around the pandemic. We would encourage her to now become more familiar with a range of other documents to support her in growing her service.

The childminder held up-to-date core training, including first aid and child protection. She had accessed further opportunities for continued professional development, attending formal courses including 'autism awareness' and 'developing children's self esteem.' These training courses supported the childminder to care for children. She had other courses booked to attend in the near future and was keen to continue her professional development.

Risk assessments were in place for the garden and various activities that the childminder regularly provided for children. These were well thought out and the childminder showed how she adapted these when necessary, such as going for a walk outdoors when there was road works nearby. This helped keep children safe.

Questionnaires for parents were used as a way to gain feedback on the service provided. These had not been successful in gaining feedback so far, however the childminder had plans to continue to adapt how she uses these. We offered support to the childminder with some suggestion on how to involve parents and children more in evaluation the service moving forward.

## 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

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

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