

# Ana's Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 7 September 2021

**Service provided by:**  
Ana Milne

**Service provider number:**  
SP2019990563

**Care service number:**  
CS2019375337

## Introduction

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 23 September 2019.

Ana Milne (referred to as 'the childminder' throughout this report) is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than 3 are not yet of an age to attend primary school, and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. Overnight care will not be provided. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.

The childminder's home is situated in Kemnay near Inverurie and is close to local amenities including the primary school, nursery, parks, shops, and woodland areas. The children have access to the living room, dining kitchen, downstairs bathroom, and a large, fully enclosed, and secure garden.

The aims and objectives as stated by the childminder included:

'To offer children a warm, nurturing and caring environment.'

'To promote children's health and wellbeing through providing healthy snacks and enabling children to take part in active and outdoor play.'

'To promote children's ability to learn and achieve by offering a range of stimulating experiences and activities.'

'To provide an environment in which children and their families feel respected and able to share their views and feedback.'

'To ensure that all children feel included and valued.'

'To ensure that children are offered opportunities for fun, adventure and lots of laughter.'

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.

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.

## What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection, which took place on 7 September 2021 between 09:45 and 12:15 and then 15:30 and 16:15. The inspection was carried out by an early learning and childcare inspector.

During this inspection we gathered evidence from various sources including:

We spoke to:

- the childminder
- the children present.

We observed and viewed:

- the childminder's practice and interactions with the children who were present
- the children at play.

We looked at:

- a sample of children's personal records
- a sample of other documentation relevant to this inspection such as accident records, medication records, risk assessments and policies
- certificate of insurance
- registration certificate
- general environment.

## Views of people using the service

The children who were present during our visit were happy and settled and were making choices and leading their own play. They shared with us that they enjoyed playing outdoors especially on the trampoline and they liked playing football.

We spoke to four parents through email and telephone calls who shared that they were very happy with the service. They also shared that the communication and sharing of information was great and the approach to settling-in during the pandemic was reassuring and caring.

Comments from parents included;

'Ana is always doing a variety of activities, from outdoor activities to puzzles, crafts, messy play, creative play and story time.'

'Ana is very accommodating to the children's needs too which is great. My child is very comfortable there.'

Self assessment

The childminder had not been asked to submit a self-assessment prior to the inspection taking place. We discussed improvements which had been made within the service which included the creation of a nurture area under the stairs in the hallway for children to take part in quiet activities.

What the service did well

The childminder had developed positive attachments with the children and knew each of them well and was responsive to their needs.

What the service could do better

The childminder could develop her approaches to quality assurance to create an improvement plan to support ongoing developments. Training and learning could also be evaluated to show the impact it has had on her practice as well as outcomes for children.

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	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

Children led their own play and made choices during a variety of fun learning experiences. The children chose to have snack outdoors after their day at school, they sat at a bench set in the garden and had a drink and an ice lolly due to it being a warm day. The children were also offered a choice of fruit for snack. The children took part in a variety of quality discussions with the childminder while eating their snack, which included a conversation about choking and not running around while eating. This increased the children's knowledge of how to keep themselves safe.

To fully meet the health and wellbeing needs of the children, the childminder had created personal plans for the children in her care. These plans included detailed information relating to health needs, allergies, contact information, routines and what the children liked or were unsure about. This ensured that the childminder knew each of the children well and maintained routines from home.

Positive relationships and attachments had been formed between the childminder and the children. The childminder was warm, caring, and responsive to the needs of the children and quickly responded to what they wanted or needed by picking up on cues which included facial expressions. This supported the children to feel safe, secure, and loved in a nurturing environment.

Children's learning experiences were shared and celebrated with parents through the Family App. This method of communication provided the opportunity for parents to be a part of their child's ongoing learning, through which they could leave comments and share feedback. Observations that had been recorded were linked to the GIRFEC wellbeing indicators which are safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, and included. We discussed with the childminder that some of the observations could be more evaluative to show specific learning and focused next steps within a child's development.

The childminder communicated well and shared information effectively with parents. Confidential or sensitive information was shared discreetly with parents. The childminder used the parent's preferred method of contact and parents shared with us that they were more than happy with the level of communication and the detailed information being communicated with them.

To keep children safe from harm, the childminder had recently completed a refresher training in child protection. The childminder had a good understanding of recognising signs of abuse which had been supported through her experience in a previous role. Children were also regularly involved in discussions about how to keep themselves safe from harm.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children. For example, the childminder and children washed their hands using soap and water at appropriate times. The resources and toys were cleaned daily or more frequently if required and the childminder's home was well ventilated.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 5 - very good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

A warm, welcoming, and nurturing environment was provided for the children to explore and have fun in. A wide range of toys and resources which were regularly rotated were easily accessible for the children in well organised storage systems which had photographs of contents on the front. The toys and resources were suitable for all ages and stages of development and reflected the needs of the children who attended each day. Parents shared that their children loved playing in the home from home environment.

A quiet and nurturing space had been developed in the hallway for children to access. This area included a comfy seating area, books displayed in bookcases and children's creative artwork was displayed on the walls. Children who required to sleep during the day, could sleep safely in a travel cot in this quiet and relaxing space where they could be monitored and supervised by the childminder.

The children had free flow access to the secure and fully enclosed garden. The garden was well equipped with a climbing frame, slide, kitchen area, tuff tray, sand, and several active play resources. The children could access a ground level trampoline one at a time to ensure their safety which was closely monitored by the childminder.

Regular outings to local parks and woodland areas, provided the children with opportunities to explore nature and stay active. Parents shared that their children had many opportunities for outdoor experiences. The children developed their understanding of assessing risks during play, for example, they would assess and discuss the risks when jumping and climbing on logs and tree trunks and how to stay safe. These opportunities supported and encouraged the children to develop their independence, imaginations, creativity, and problem solving.

To reduce the risk of accidents and incidents, risk assessments were in place for all areas of the childminder's home as well as outings. The risk assessments for outings were completed and updated for every trip. Accident and incident records were completed in detail, shared with parents, and were used to update and review the risk assessments already in place. For example, a recent accident on the trampoline had resulted in the trampoline risk assessment being updated to ensure the safety of the children.

## 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

To support ongoing quality assurance within the service, the childminder shared questionnaires with families to gain their feedback and views. Families were also provided with opportunities to share comments and feedback on the Family App. Discussions with children had taken place and were recorded to show their interests, likes and suggestions. It was discussed with the childminder during our visit, that she could record significant feedback or conversations with children and families and evidence how this feedback had been taken forward.

To ensure safe and consistent practice within the service, the childminder had policies and procedures in

place. These were reviewed annually or sooner if required. The childminder should ensure that all policies show a current review date.

To continue to develop play experiences and outcomes for children, the childminder had taken part in several training opportunities. The childminder should continue to attend relevant training and increase her knowledge of current best practice documents. This training could be evaluated to share the impact it has had on her practice and experiences for children.

The childminder was in the process of beginning to develop an improvement plan to support ongoing developments within her service. She confidently shared and reflected on improvements which had already been made. For example, the creation of a nurturing and quiet space for children to access. We discussed that an improvement plan could share plans for future improvements as a result of training, research, consultations or feedback.

## 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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