

# Gemma Strickland Childminding Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 30 August 2021

**Service provided by:**

**Service provider number:**  
SP2019990915

**Care service number:**  
CS2019377801

## Introduction

Gemma Strickland Childminding service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 23 December 2019.

The childminding service is located in Shawlands, Glasgow. The service is situated close to local amenities including parks, nurseries and primary schools. The children have access to the living room, kitchen, and toilet facilities. There is direct access to an enclosed private garden suitable for outdoor play.

The service is provided by Gemma Strickland and 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 childminder's own family.

The childminder had prepared the following statement of aims for the service:

"I aim to provide a warm, friendly and relaxed environment where individual needs can be catered for. My service will be based on best practice from a mixture of childcare models, namely Waldorf, RIE and Montessori methods. My aim is to provide a space where children thrive whilst developing their gross motor skills without interference and have confidence developing new skills through self-motivated play. I will provide positive sensory experiences, fresh air and exercise through daily walks in local parks. I will treat service users as capable individuals from birth, encouraging participation in their care as much as they are able to do so. I will treat service users with respect and apply gentle parenting techniques to provide rhythm and routine to the days to help the service users settle in and feel secure and confident in their care setting."

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 we did during our inspection

We carried out an unannounced inspection of Gemma Strickland Childminding on Monday 30 August 2021. Feedback was given on the same day. The inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

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 to support a safe environment for children and staff. We will report on the overall performance of this indicator in Theme 1 Quality of Care and support.

During the onsite visit, we gathered evidence from several sources including the following:

- registration certificate
- public liability insurance certificate
- the minded child's personal plan
- policies and procedures, for example relating to the administration of medication, accidents and incidents

and child protection

- we reviewed the childminder's key question 5 self evaluation that we had previously assessed and discussed with them.

## Views of people using the service

There was one minded child present at the time of the inspection as well as one of the childminder's own children but they were both taking an afternoon nap.

We sent a request via the childminder to the family who used her service asking them to provide us with feedback about their experience of using the service. The parents had not responded to our request by the time of drafting this report.

The childminder was in regular contact with the minded child's parents on the days that they attended. She planned to request formal feedback on her performance from parents every six months. Taking account of parents' views will help them to feel meaningfully involved and able to influence change within the childminding setting.

## Self assessment

The childminder completed a self-assessment prior to our inspection. The childminder had identified strengths and areas for further development for her service.

## What the service did well

The childminder had established trusting relationships with the minded child's family, supporting the child to feel safe, secure and happy in her care. Effective communication through daily verbal exchanges and the use of WhatsApp meant care decisions were made in partnership with parents.

## What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to evaluate her service and the outcomes for children and families. The childminder should consider developing an improvement plan that will support her to track and monitor any progress made, thus demonstrating how she delivers positive outcomes for children in her care.

## 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

We found the quality of care and support to be very good with the childminder demonstrating major strengths that supported positive outcomes for children.

Children were being cared for in a homely environment. The childminder had taken time to get to know the minded child's needs and took their interests together with the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators to plan fun and challenging play for them. The minded child benefitted from daily outdoor experiences, such as walks to local parks. This supported children to be active and enjoy a healthy lifestyle. The minded child's development and achievements were celebrated which made it more likely they would feel included and valued.

The childminder demonstrated an inclusive and respectful ethos. She knew the minded child's unique personality very well and recorded their changing needs and routines within their personal plan. The childminder could give examples of how they had shared information with the child's parents in order to plan next steps together. This ensured there was consistency in the child's care and contributed to them feeling safe and secure.

The childminder was confident about their role and responsibilities for protecting children and keeping them safe. They understood the Scottish Government supplementary guidance that was published during the pandemic to highlight the extra pressures on family life caused by Covid-19 restrictions. This ensured children were kept safe and would enable the childminder to respond to any concerns in a timely and sensitive manner.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and families. The childminder was familiar with the Health Protection Scotland good practice guidance, 'Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings', and we could see that enhanced Covid-19 infection prevention and control measures had been implemented during the pandemic. The childminder had chosen to continue with these measures despite restrictions easing. For example, there were very little soft furnishings and the sofas were easily wiped clean. The childminder instinctively opened the garden door to allow good ventilation during our visit. This helped limit the risk of transmission of coronavirus and highlighted that the childminder had everyone's health and safety at heart.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

We found the quality of the childminding environment to be very good with significant strengths. The childminder had given consideration to how the flow of the room and children's play experiences could impact on their development, health, wellbeing and happiness.

The childminder's home was welcoming, clean and tidy. The childminder explained how she made sure the environment was fit for the care of children through day-to-day cleaning and following a robust risk assessment. She was well prepared to make appropriate adjustments for the stage of development of the minded child. For example, the setting was open plan but gates were placed across doorways to prevent the child from being near the stairwell and there were safety locks on the kitchen cupboards. There was free flow access to the garden, which was securely enclosed. These measures contributed to children's safety.

Children experienced high quality facilities. We observed there was attractive child height furniture with toys and resources having an emphasis on natural and tactile materials. This encouraged children to explore their natural curiosity, problem solving skills and creativity. The childminder explained that while resources were easily accessible for the minded child, she removed any that were developmentally inappropriate for them as part of her risk assessment.

During our visit the minded child was having their nap in a pushchair however it had been recorded in the child's personal plan that this was their parents' preference. The childminder had made parents aware of safe sleep guidance and minimised risks by regularly checking on the child and the temperature of the area.

The downstairs toilet facilities could be easily accessed by the minded child, where they would be able to use the provided step to independently stand at the sink and wash their hands. There was a plentiful supply of liquid soap and paper towels to promote effective hand hygiene. We noted that the way paper towels were stacked could promote the spread of infection and advised the childminder to revert to their original practice of providing an individual towel for the minded child.

The minded child did not require any medication but we asked the childminder about the systems that she would use for ensuring that she administered medication safely if it ever was required by children. We could see that she had appropriate templates for logging children's medication needs and that these were in keeping with our own guidance - 'Management of Medication in Daycare of Children and Childminding Services' (2014). The childminder had also participated in training on paediatric First Aid, which meant that she was well equipped to take appropriate action in the event of a medical emergency involving a minded child.

## 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

We found the quality of management and leadership to be very good with significant strengths, which supported positive outcomes for the minded child.

The childminder was a member of the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and had used their resources to help keep up to date with changes in how early learning and childcare was delivered. For example the childminder was aware of funding available to support expansion but did not feel the time was right to develop the service in that direction. SCMA is a national umbrella organisation whose main aim is to promote childminding as a quality childcare service.

This was the childminder's first inspection. The childminder had worked hard to develop her service whilst creating an atmosphere that meant families felt valued and respected. Key information was gathered about the minded child and their family context to enable the childminder to take account of their preferences. This responsive approach made sure children were provided with individualised care.

Completing the Key Question 5 self-evaluation had helped the childminder to reflect on their service. The childminder was proactive in her own professional development, identifying professional reading and webinars that would assist her in making improvements to the service, based on current research and best practice. We discussed the benefits of the childminder compiling an improvement plan so that she could reflect on how she would like the service to develop and what training would support her in that journey. An improvement plan would also support the childminder to track and monitor any progress made, thus demonstrating how she delivered positive outcomes for children in her care.

The childminder had created a robust record keeping system to support the management of the service. Risk assessments had been completed that detailed appropriate measures to safely operate the service, and these measures had been enhanced during the pandemic. The childminder kept parents informed about her plans for the service as well as sharing their child's daily activities using WhatsApp. These measures helped parents know what to expect and supported them to feel involved and included in the service. The childminder was registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), which demonstrated she followed their guidelines on data protection when considering how she stored personal information confidentially and lawfully, including photographs.

### 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 registration. Details of any upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

## Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this service since registration.

## Inspection and grading history

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



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