

# Little Stars Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 26 November 2021

**Service provided by:**  
Asia Ali

**Service provider number:**  
SP2019990431

**Care service number:**  
CS2019373808

## Introduction

Little Stars childminding service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 31 July 2019. The service is provided by Asia Ali and is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children at any one time up to 16 years of age of whom no more than three are not yet of an age to attend primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. The service is provided from a three bedroom semi-detached house in Cowglen, Glasgow. The children have access to the lounge, kitchen, and toilet facilities and a secure garden. The service is located close to local amenities including nurseries, schools and parks. The childminder told us that the main aim of her service is "to provide a happy, caring, warm, homely environment, where children can learn through play".

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 Little Stars childminding service on Wednesday 10 November 2021. The inspection was carried out by an inspector from the Care Inspectorate. During this inspection we spoke to the childminder and one minded child aged five years who was present. We discussed the care given by the childminder and looked at a number of documents including health and safety records, planning tools and certificates of training. Although the service had been registered for more than two years Asia told us that her operating plans had been severely restricted as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Over the few months prior to the inspection she had begun minding one child after school on one day each week. She told us of her plans to expand her service in the months ahead. This means that we were only able to gather a very limited amount of personal planning information as well as parental views to support the writing of this report.

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 children's personal plans
- policies and procedures, for example relating to the administration of medication, accidents and incidents and child protection

## Views of people using the service

It was clear that the minded child was happy and content in the care of the childminder. The childminder was observed to be caring and supportive in her approach demonstrating a good knowledge and understanding of the individual needs of the minded child present.

One parent emailed their views about the quality of care and support provided by the service. The responses from this demonstrated that they were happy with the quality of care their child received. They told us:

"I would say that Asia provides a reliable and comprehensive service that makes our life considerably easier, takes good care of our daughter, and is easy to communicate/rearrange requirements with, and can be flexible when we have any last minute issues."

## Self assessment

The childminder had not been asked to complete a self-assessment prior to our inspection.

## 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.

## What the service could do better

The childminder should continue to develop her personal planning records for children. She should develop a range of policies tailored to her individual service. She should seek to widen the bread and scope of her professional learning including food hygiene, loose parts play, and outdoor play. She should regularly review and refresh her training in child protection. 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	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


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

The childminder told us that there was on-going communication with parents about how the newly minded child had settled into her service. The childminder was able to highlight the child's individual likes, dislikes, routines and personal preferences. The childminder had obtained a Scottish Child Minding Association (SCMA) starter pack which she intended to use to develop individual care plans for children.

We discussed how every child attending a registered service must have a personal plan within 28 days of them starting to use the service. This includes children who attend services on an infrequent or irregular basis. We have referred the childminder to the Care Inspectorate "Guide for Providers on Personal Planning" available from: <https://hub.careinspectorate.com>. This will support the childminder to work with parents to set out how an individual child's assessed needs will be met, as well as take account of their wishes and choices.

We discussed how photographs could be gathered to record children's successes and achievements through play experiences. We highlighted how these could be used to enhance her personal plans for children by linking these to specific next steps for children's play and development. The childminder agreed that this would help foster meaningful discussion with parents about children's play and development.

The childminder discussed the processes to be followed if required to administer medication and made sure that parents completed appropriate consent forms before this was given. This meant that children who had particular health needs were included in the service and that their health and wellbeing were promoted.

 The childminder had also participated in training on baby and child first aid, which meant that she was equipped to take appropriate action in the event of a medical emergency involving a minded child.

The childminder had accessed child protection training and showed confidence in telling us about the steps that she would take if she had any concerns about a child's welfare. We discussed with her the Scottish Government supplementary guidance that was published during the pandemic to highlight the extra pressures on family life caused by Covid-19 restrictions. We highlighted how her child protection policy could be adapted to take account of this guidance. This will help further develop her knowledge of key issues in child protection and continue to promote the wellbeing of all children, including those who are most vulnerable.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children and families. We referred the childminder to Health Protection Scotland good practice guidance, "Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings". The childminder told us how she opened windows to allow good ventilation throughout her home. This helped limit the risk of transmission of coronavirus and highlighted that the childminder had everyone's health and safety at heart. The childminder told us of her plans to complete infection prevention and control training. This can help reassure children and parents that they will experience a high standard of care when attending her service.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 4 - good

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

We found the childminder's home to be a warm, welcoming and smoke free environment for children. The childminder was very aware of the safety of the children and made sure that the rooms used were safe for the children to explore and play. The children's main play area was the lounge. She told us how she resourced children's play indoors with a range of arts and crafts activities, storytelling and provided homework support for the child who attended her service after school. Asia told us of her plans to provide opportunities for outdoor play in local parks, as well as soft play centres and provide a range of play activities within her large secure back garden area. This included a range of ball games, wheeled toys and sand and water activities. All of these experiences will give children the opportunity to be active and develop new skills.

The childminder had developed a risk assessment that identified the potential risks in the premises and to maximise children's safety inside and outside the home. This ensured that children were kept safe during their play. Effective systems were in place to record and share information with parents about any accidents or incidents. This meant that parents were kept informed about issues affecting their children.

The childminder told us how she promoted children's positive behaviour through praise and encouragement. These helped children to take responsibility for their behaviour and promoted inclusion.

Asia had advised us that she plans for parents to provide children's food. She was aware that if she offered cooked food as part of the service of the need to contact her local environmental health department to register her service to do this. We highlighted and discussed the Care Inspectorate's "Setting the Table" guidance which is designed to support the development of positive food habits children from a very early age. The childminder told us of her plans to complete food hygiene training. This will help develop the childminder's approach to the provision of food and snacks and contribute towards children's overall health and wellbeing.

### 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

The childminder kept up to date with good practice in a number of different ways. Some examples of this included through the quarterly magazines and web site for the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA); and the Care Inspectorate magazine Care News; and sharing good practice through a local childminder network.

Prior to the initial registration of her service in July 2020 the childminder had joined the SCMA and completed their Childminding Induction Support course. Asia told us how this had helped shape her plans to develop her service. She told us it had broadened her awareness of a childminder's role. It had provided her with a strong foundation for meeting the needs of children while following a safe healthy and professional approach. We discussed how use of the SCMA's training portfolio and other online training providers could help her to regularly review and refresh her training. We discussed how training records could be developed that demonstrated the link between her learning and improved outcomes for children using the service. The childminder's commitment to future professional development and training helped to assure parents that their children would receive appropriate support when they needed it.

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The childminder had purchased a range of exemplar written policies and procedures from the SCMA. We highlighted the need to tailor these to her service and make them available to new parents so that they knew what to expect of her service. The childminder confirmed that she had discussions with parents, about the service, each day that they bring their child in order to respect and include their views in her service. The childminder confirmed that she finds this is the best way to seek parental views. We discussed recording any verbal suggestions or comments that parents made in order to improve the service so that these can be reflected on, and where possible taken forward. This approach will ensure that parents and children are included in making decisions about the service and the service is relevant to each families' needs.

### 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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