

# Ward, Naomi Child Minding

Fochabers

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
28 September 2022

**Service provided by:**

**Service provider number:**  
SP2006961115

**Service no:**  
CS2006133740

## About the service

Mrs Ward is registered to provide a care service to six children at any one time up to 16 years of age, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers include the children of the childminder's family/household.

The service is situated in a residential area of a rural hamlet. There is a play park, country walks and beach a short distance away. Children are cared for in a purpose built playroom and lounge/diner. There is a toilet attached to the playroom and in the main part of the house. There is a large, secure garden to the front and rear of the premises.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 22 September 2022. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with three parents and one child;
- spoke with the childminder;
- observed practice and daily life; and
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

Children's overall wellbeing was being well supported through the caring and nurturing interactions of the childminder that helped to build positive relationships.

The childminder recognised the benefits of families being central to their child's care.

Children were actively involved in leading their own play and learning. There was a balance of spontaneous and planned quality experiences.

Play areas were sensitively arranged to take account of children of all ages and stages of development and equipped with appropriate resources and materials to support learning.

The childminder was taking steps that helped them to be reflective of their practice, with a view to identifying areas that were not working so well.

The childminder records changes as they occurred, to support a continuous and sustained approach to improvement.

The childminder recognised the importance of fun in children's play to enable their learning to be taken forward.

## From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
How good is our staff team?	4 - Good

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

## How good is our care, play and learning?

## 5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children/people, therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

### 1.1 Nurturing care and support

Children's overall wellbeing was being well supported through the caring and nurturing interactions of the childminder that helped to build positive relationships. Children were settled and assured as the childminder had an understanding of their needs, that reflected the views of the family. Children were being given time and space to get to know each other, to feel comfortable and to play and learn from each other.

Children were treated with dignity and warmth during personal care routines. They were helped to let them know what was happening as the childminder talked with them. Children were supported well if they needed to sleep, recuperate or have some quiet time, so that their overall development was supported. Sleeping habits reflected the individual needs of the child and took account of family wishes.

Children enjoyed eating together, it was an unhurried event in a relaxed atmosphere. The childminder was focused on the needs of the children and supported them to be independent. They chatted with the children and it was a positive, social experience. Parents provided foods that met their child's cultural and dietary needs. Children had water available to them, to help them remain hydrated.

The childminder recognised the benefits of families being central to their child's care. Parents had been involved in the creation and review of their child's personal plan to identify needs such as health, care routines and likes/dislikes. We discussed the benefits of a clear system of review that helped to ensure information remained up to date. The personal plan took account of the SHANARRI indicators (represents a basic requirement of what children need to grow and develop - Getting It Right For Every Child), that helped with continuity of care. Chronologies detailed significant events that also helped the childminder to identify children's individual needs and direct their actions to support children well.

Parents told us that the childminder had formed positive and caring relationships with their child. The childminder sought detailed information about their child and family, and involved them in all aspects of their care. Their child had many activities that were well balanced and supported them to grow and socialise in the wider community.

### 1.3 Play and Learning

Children were actively involved in leading their own play and learning. There was a balance of spontaneous and planned quality experiences. There was a variety of play experiences that engaged children's imagination and helped to develop their skills in language, literacy and numeracy.

Play activities enabled children to build, test and problem-solve. Children enjoyed following a recipe to make a cake, looking for sticks and flowers, playing cafe's together and making patterns/shapes in the sand. A baby enjoyed stacking bricks and knocking them down that helped their brain development. Children benefited from being able to move around safely and independently, they were happy and assured.

The childminder was child centred and responsive to the interests of the children. Their holistic approach to children's wellbeing and right to play supported children's emotional resilience. Children were progressing well, they were happy and confident.

Children's creativity and curiosity was promoted through the childminder's thoughtful interactions to extend their thinking. The childminder observed and assessed children's progress and development and recognised children's achievements. This helped to widen their skills and consolidate their learning.

Children's opportunities for play and learning were enhanced through strong connections to the wider community. This included a mother and toddler group, local walks and visits to woodlands and the beach.

## How good is our setting?

## 5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children/people, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Children benefited from being cared for in a clean, comfortable and well furnished setting. Windows and French doors provided ample ventilation and natural light, that contributed to children's psychological wellbeing.

Children were being kept safe as the childminder had suitable equipment in place, such as an adjustable high chair and a travel cot. The childminder had also implemented infection control practices that followed best practice guidance to support children's safety. They included personal protective equipment (PPE) for the purposes of contact with bodily fluid and good hand hygiene. We suggested that children, including babies, washed their hands after nappy changing that supported best practice.

The childminder kept the premises, and activities both in the home and outside, under review to assess and manage risk. Written risk assessments also helped to support the safety and security of the children. We suggested that the home/garden risk assessment detailed the management of pet faeces so that the action to address risk was clear. The childminder had completed first aid training so that they were able to respond appropriately should an accident occur. They had a suitable format for recording accidents/incidents to ensure that correct information was held and exchanged with parents/carers.

Children had ample space to play and explore in the designated play room that had easy access to the garden. It was sensitively arranged to take account of children of all ages and stages of development. Children's curiosities were promoted as it was equipped with appropriate resources and materials to support learning. They were arranged in low storage units so that children could easily help themselves and make their own choices. The lounge/diner was also used for play activities and meals/snacks. A large sofa enabled children to rest and recuperate.

The large outdoor play space that surrounded the property was easily accessible and secure. It was equipped with climbing frames and wooden structures, basket and rope swings that supported children's physical development. A vegetable patch had been used by the children to help them learn about growing food and healthy choices. A mud kitchen situated within a small wild space equipped with real utensils enabled children to be creative and supported their thinking. Such play helped to build resilience and to support health and emotional wellbeing. Continued extension of larger loose parts (no pre-determined use) would support children to use their imagination and problem solve.

## How good is our leadership?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children/people and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

The childminder had records that were well organised and readily accessible. They had clear policies that had been updated to support them in running the service and provided a basis for evaluation. These were also shared with parents so that they knew what to expect from the service. We discussed the benefits of keeping them under review so that they remained reflective of best practice and the Health and Social Care Standards My support, my life - [hub.careinspectorate.com](http://hub.careinspectorate.com)

The childminder was taking steps that helped them to be reflective of their practice, with a view to identifying areas that were not working so well. They had accepted support to help them improve their recording and documentation and it remained an area for development. They had produced a service improvement plan to identify focused areas for development, with a view to improving the quality of the service for children and families.

We spoke with the childminder about the benefits of recording the changes as they occurred to support a continuous and sustained approach to improvement. Changes could be as a result of seeking the views of parents and/or children, evaluation of training or reading best practice guidance. We referred the childminder to the Care Inspectorate early years improvement programme - [hub.careinspectorate.com](http://hub.careinspectorate.com).

The childminder recognised the importance that families played in their child's wellbeing and had formed positive relationships with them. Parents told us that the childminder communicated well with them and that they had got to know the child and the family well. They were able to have open discussion with the childminder and share information that helped them to feel involved in their child's care and progress.

## How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children/people and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

The childminder had completed training relevant to their role including first aid and child protection that helped to safeguard children's wellbeing. The childminder was also completing a relevant early years qualification. This was with a view to supporting their own learning needs and to enhance outcomes for children.

The childminder had been reflective of their practice and had an enabling attitude that supported children to achieve their potential. We advised the childminder to continue to engage in professional learning and to use best practice guidance for such purposes. We also discussed how keeping concise records of the impact of their learning, helped to identify any action to improve practice.

The childminder's natural warmth and kindness towards the children helped them to feel valued, loved and secure. Children's curiosity, independence and confidence was promoted through the responsive approach of the childminder. They recognised the importance of fun in children's play to enable their learning to be taken forward.

## What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

### Areas for improvement

#### Previous area for improvement 1

To ensure children's safety, the childminder should carry out written risk assessments of the environment and action these. Areas should include, but not be restricted to, making safe:

- exposed extension cables within the living room
- an unguarded wood burning stove
- an uncovered panel heater in the outdoor summer house
- cleaning materials being stored within children's reach.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'My environment is secure and safe.' (HSCS 5.17)

**This area for improvement was made on 9 December 2021.**

#### Action taken since then

The childminder had developed written risk assessments of the environment and had actioned them.

### 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).

## Detailed evaluations

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good

How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good

How good is our leadership?	4 - Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	4 - Good

How good is our staff team?	4 - Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	4 - Good



## To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

## Contact us

Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

## Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.