

# Dunseith, Emma Child Minding

Stranraer

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
30 September 2022

**Service provided by:**

**Service provider number:**  
SP2019990793

**Service no:**  
CS2019377065

## About the service

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 28 November 2019. The service provider is Emma Dunseith.

The service operates from the childminder's own home, located in Stranraer. The service is provided from a detached, two storey house, with children having access to the ground floor and large enclosed back garden.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection, carried out by one early learning and childcare inspector, which took place on 27 September 2022. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about the service. This included, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection. In making our evaluations of the service we:

- observed practice and daily life
- spoke with children using the service
- reviewed documents
- spoke with the childminder
- emailed parents/carers to gather their views and feedback.

## Key messages

- Children were experiencing warm, caring and nurturing support.
- Children's plans were detailed and updated regularly, taking full account of children's emerging and changing needs.
- There was a strong focus on outdoors and engaging in the wider surrounding community.
- The childminder was committed to the ongoing improvement and development of her service.
- The childminder's dedication and passion was supporting children to thrive and flourish. Her warmth, kindness and positive ethos of mutual trust and respect was promoting a happy, secure and supportive environment for children and their families.
- The childminder supported the children well to lead their own play and learning.
- The secure garden area accessed by the children was providing a rich outdoor learning environment for the children.

## 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?              | 5 - Very Good |
| How good is our staff team?              | 5 - Very 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 evaluated this key question as very good, where major strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

### Quality Indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support

Children were happy and settled in the service. They were relaxed and confident around the childminder and in the childminding environment. The children chatted with the childminder throughout the inspection, involving her in their play.

The childminder knew the children well and discussed personalities, interests and how children's individual needs were supported and met. The childminder was nurturing and caring and was respectful in her manner with children and her interactions.

Children's plans were detailed and updated regularly to include 'All about me information, likes, dislikes, interests, learning and development. Plans were frequently shared with parents who had opportunities to agree next steps for their child. Parents told us they also receive daily updates on what their children have been doing verbally and via the online journal this made them feel included and involved in their child's routine. Parents told us,

'Emma makes use of care plans in what feels timely intervals. I find these reassuring as it helps Emma keep up to date with my kids needs and development so she can support them to her best ability which she does. Emma is always very keen to find out areas she can help to support the kids and she very much does this to help the kids grow and develop in line with their stage of life'.

'Emma makes use of so many activities to keep the kids amused and stimulated such as painting and drawing, reading and lots of imaginary play. She also takes the kids on excursions which they thoroughly enjoy. I see the kids learn and develop due to a lot of the activities Emma does with the kids'.

The children experienced a sociable relaxing lunch time, they had participated in making lunch and all sat well together, children were offered water and milk and also a good variety of fruit. Children independently cleared their plates from the table and then washed their hands prior to play, this was promoting good self-help and care skills and you could see this was a normal part of their routine.

No children were requiring medication at the time of the inspection. We sampled medication formats and found these required to be updated. We discussed with the childminder reviewing the format, in line with current best practice guidance 'Management of Medication in Daycare and Childminding Services'.

### Quality Indicator 1.3 Play and learning

The childminder supported the children well to lead their own play and learning. We saw the children had the opportunity play between indoors and outside. The childminder encouraged and provided play experiences that took account of children's stage of development and interests. We observed the children being encouraged to be independent and confident. Children present freely chose what they wanted to play with from a range of accessible toys. When children requested other resources, the childminder responded and provided resources to extend play. This supported sustained engagement in their interest.

The childminder ensured parents were included and informed about their children's learning and development through documenting and detailing children learning and achievements in their personal profiles and also capturing children's voice through evidence of activities and learning within mini floor book. Children's profiles were regularly shared with parents and evidence of their comments were viewed. Parents told us,

'Emma is such a great childminder and I would not or could not ask for any better'.

'Emma is reliable, trustworthy, fun, energetic, bubbly, professional and extremely caring. I feel my child has come on so much in her time with Emma'.

The garden was providing a rich outdoor learning environment for the children. During our visit children accessed the secure garden area. They were excited at picking the apples that had fallen off the apple tree, which were then used in their role play in the kitchen area and also to make a crumble for after dinner. The children had also been growing vegetables for example, tomatoes, strawberries and onions, which were then used for snack or making soup. The children also had opportunities to explore loose parts play through a variety of resources, they had been using decorated stones and wood to learn about numbers and letters and the mud kitchen had been adapted with water pipes to explore pouring and filling. We found these outdoor opportunities were promoting curiosity, creativity, imagination and fun.

The childminder also made use of wider community resources in accessing the local parks, beaches, libraries, and playgroups. This meant that children benefitted from exploring their community which supported learning and wellbeing.

## How good is our setting?

**5 - Very Good**

We evaluated this key question as very good, where major strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

### Quality Indicator - 2.2 Children's experience high quality facilities.

The childminder's home was clean, tidy and well maintained. She provided a warm, welcoming and smoke free environment for the children attending. The childminder made good use of the space available in her home and we saw the children confidently move around indoors and outside in the garden. There was a summer house in the garden where children benefitted from an extended learning space. Children could relax and rest, had access to a variety of different resources from indoors and also had the option to play freely in the garden where they could run off excess energy, Parents told us

'Emma has a fantastic setting , my child is so happy there, like a second home for her. Emma always has the kids out and about doing different activities, and she is so kind and caring. I trust her 100% , and I know that she is doing the very best for my child'.

'I am extremely happy with the care Emma provides to my children whilst in her care. In my eyes I couldn't ask her to improve in any way as she provides such a caring and supportive setting in which I feel completely relaxed with the kids in her care'.

The childminder was aware of keeping children safe through risk assessing her service and supervision. Written risk assessments were reviewed regularly and updated if and when required.

Children were safe and secure in the service. We could see the childminder had protective measures in place to minimise risks to children, for example a safety gate at the stairs, doors and gates were kept locked at all times.

We found the service to be following good practice infection control procedures. For example, good hand hygiene, and regular cleaning.

## How good is our leadership?

**5 - Very Good**

We evaluated this key question as very good, where major strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

### Quality Indicator - 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The childminder was committed to the ongoing development of her service and had a clear focus on improving outcomes for children and their families. Vision, values and aims had been developed and imbedded for example, the childminders aims were to provide children with a warm, safe, secure and friendly environment and provide lots of opportunities for children to develop their learning outdoors, both within the setting and also in the community. This was observed and evidenced throughout our inspection.

The childminder had very good relationships with parents and kept them fully involved and informed about the childminding service. Parents confirmed that daily communication kept them updated about their child's experiences with the childminder, and their progress. The childminder asked parents for feedback to develop the service and ensure parents were happy with the provision. The childminder also asks parents for regular feedback on their children's individual learning profiles, children's progress and achievements which supports parents in being part of their child's learning. Parents told us

'Emma always listens to and follows any requests that I have had, for example set nap times, potty training etc'.

'We have regular care plan reviews and discussions on next steps and how we can work together '.

The childminder had developed a range of policies and procedures which supported her in providing a quality service.

The childminder had developed a detailed improvement plan with achievable targets and we can see progress from the targets identified. Moving forward further links to best practice guidance for example: 'A Quality Framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged childcare' and 'realising the ambition' will support the childminder to reflect on what is working well in the service and what could be improved. This will also ensure children and families continue to have meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development of the service.

## How good is our staff team?

**5 - Very Good**

We evaluated this key question as very good, where major strengths impacted on positive outcomes for children.

### Quality Indicator - 4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values

Children experienced kind, caring and a consistent approach which helped them feel safe and secure. The childminder was committed to ensuring positive outcomes for children and families. The childminder recognised the importance of partnership working and had made links with local nurseries that children attended. We would encourage the childminder to continue to build links with partnership nurseries sharing information regarding children. She was skilled at building strong relationships with families which had created a warm and welcoming ethos within the service. Parents told us

'Emma has made the process of me returning back to work so much easier. She has a great relationship with both my children. It is such a warm and friendly environment and I cannot fault it'.

'I am very happy with the communication I receive from Emma. It comes in verbal form during pick up but also through email later on that evening. I also receive pictures throughout the day which I really enjoy'.

Children benefitted from a culture where they were supported to thrive and flourish because of the childminder's commitment to continuous professional learning. The childminder had kept her skills and knowledge up to date through attending training. This included child protection training, causes and spread of infection, promoting positive behaviour and supporting early language development. The childminder had a clear understanding of how children develop and learn and made good use of professional development that supported children to reach their full potential. We would encourage the childminder to record the reflections and evaluations of the training she had undertaken and the impact this had had on practice and outcomes for children and families.

## 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?                        | 5 - Very Good |
| 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well | 5 - Very Good |
| How good is our staff team?                        | 5 - Very Good |
| 4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values             | 5 - Very Good |



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