

# Little Hands Child Minding

Perth

**Type of inspection:**  
Announced

**Completed on:**  
23 October 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Pamela Keracher

**Service provider number:**  
SP2013985197

**Service no:**  
CS2013319560

## About the service

Pamela Keracher provides a childminding service from her home in Perth. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of six children under the age of 16 at any one time, up to 16 years of age. Within this number care can be provided to a maximum of four children attending a school care accommodation service.

The childminder offers a guardianship service to children who are residing at boarding school establishments. The children attend during weekend and holiday breaks. The childminder operates a company Scottish Overseas Guardianship Association. This company is registered with AEGIS, the Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students.

The service is close to local amenities including green spaces and shops. Young people using the service have access to the whole house with the exception of the childminder's bedroom and bathroom facilities. They also have access to an enclosed garden to the rear of the property.

## About the inspection

This was an announced inspection which took place on 18 October 2025 between 11:45 and 14:00. This 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 and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke with three young people using the service
- reviewed four completed questionnaires from families using the service
- spoke with the provider
- assessed core assurances, including the physical environment
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

As part of our inspections, we assess core assurances. Core assurances are checks we make to ensure children are safe, the physical environment is well maintained and that a service is operating legally. At the time of this inspection, no improvements were identified relating to core assurances.

During this inspection we gathered specific information to help us understand more about how services support children's safety, wellbeing and engagement in their play and learning. This included reviewing the following aspects:

- staff deployment
- safety of the physical environment, indoors and outdoors
- the quality of personal plans and how well children's needs are being met
- children's engagement with the experiences provided in their setting.

This information will be anonymised and analysed to help inform our future work with services.

**Key messages**

- Young people received love and support through warm, kind, and fun interactions from the childminder who had high aspirations for them.
- The childminder and assistant had a strong understanding of what it meant for young people to be away from their families. Shared values were naturally woven through interactions and experiences and promoted a respectful and inclusive environment where all young people felt welcome and safe.
- The childminder and assistant were knowledgeable on how to keep young people safe and secure.
- Young people made informed decisions about hobbies they wished to pursue and cultural events, concerts, and galleries they wished to attend while staying with the childminder.
- To further develop the service for young people, the provider should develop a system of quality assurance, including self-evaluation.

**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

Leadership	4 - Good
Children play and learn	5 - Very Good
Children are supported to achieve	5 - Very Good

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

## Leadership 4 - Good

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where there were important strengths within the setting's work and some aspects which could benefit from improvement.

### Quality indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources

The childminder was highly committed to ensuring their values were reflected in the high-quality outcomes provided to young people. The aims and values of the service were widely shared with young people, families, and schools the young people attended. We observed the childminder encourage independence and confidence through chosen tasks. They modelled positive social skills and demonstrated courtesy and warmth when interacting with young people. Shared values were naturally woven through interactions and experiences and promoted a respectful and inclusive environment where all young people felt welcome and safe. This meant young people were provided with a sense of belonging and positive outcomes.

The childminder and assistant were experienced, enjoyed welcoming young people into their home and had been host's for international students for a long time. A comprehensive range of policies underpinned their practice. These had been written to reflect their role as part of AEGIS, the Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students. Families were provided with policies and procedures and detailed information on what being a host meant to young people and their families. This ensured families knew what to expect from the service.

Young people benefited from a childminder who valued and respected the views of all to help ensure young people felt happy, safe, and secure while living in their home. The views of young people, families and schools were informally gathered to help the childminder plan experiences and activities. We asked the childminder to consider implementing a more formal system for young people and families to share their views. This would help ensure young people and families continued to feel included, respected and would support them better to help influence positive change.

The childminder and assistant were well trained and often reflected informally on their practice and training needs. We asked the childminder to implement a system for quality assurance, including self-evaluation. This would help them identify what was working well and areas of practice that could be improved. They should then use this information to develop an improvement plan to help them monitor their progress with developments. (See area for improvement 1)

The childminder's assistant, being the childminders husband lived in the house, ate meals, played cards, and went on excursions and day trips with the childminder and young people. They had been safely recruited, were clear on their roles and responsibilities and available in the event of an emergency. This contributed to the positive and happy family environment created for young people. Additionally, it demonstrated the childminders commitment to meeting their aims and values.

### Areas for improvement

1. To further develop the service for young people, the provider should develop a system of quality assurance, including self-evaluation.

This should include, but is not limited to:

- a) develop their knowledge and understanding around self-evaluation processes and use these reflections to improve practice
- b) develop a clear and effective plan to maintain and improve the service
- c) routinely monitor areas of practice and provide their assistant with effective feedback to help improve outcomes.

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

'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

## Children play and learn 5 - Very Good

We found major strengths in this aspect of the setting's work and identified very few areas for improvement; therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

### Quality indicator: Play learning and developing

Young people made informed decisions about hobbies they wished to pursue and cultural events, concerts, and galleries they wished to attend while staying with the childminder. Families were consulted and together they agreed an informal timetable of activities. The childminder was mindful and respectful that this was a time away from school for young people and they needed to rest. However, they were keen that young people also recognised an area of the school curriculum that they felt they needed to gain confidence in and sought out resources to support them. This creative approach engaged young people, furthered their interests, and helped them build confidence.

The childminder and assistant were knowledgeable and trained in anti-bullying, preventing radicalism, extremism, and cyber awareness. This extensive training was reflective of the age and stage of the young people the childminder cared for. They used their learning to help guide and support young people which helped keep them safe and secure.

Families benefitted from regular emails, and text messages from the childminder during their child's stay. Due to families living in different time zones this was the most reliable source of communication and meant families were notified and included in their child's experiences. When young people returned to school, the childminder sent their families a short, detailed report. This resulted in families receiving consistent and effective information on their child's emotional security and wellbeing. Families told us, 'We discuss needs and preferences and any changes in behaviour' and 'Support's my child's emotional needs and regularly reports the status of my child. If necessary, the childminder can support my child's academic needs if they are facing difficulties.'

## Children are supported to achieve 5 - Very Good

We found major strengths in this aspect of the setting's work and identified very few areas for improvement; therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

### Quality indicator: Nurturing care and support

Young people received love and support through warm, kind, and fun interactions from the childminder who had high aspirations for them. The childminder viewed each young person as an individual with unique characters and strengths. The positive relationships that had been formed helped young people feel respected, valued, and safe. This meant they were happy, content and enjoyed their stay and experiences in the childminders home. Young people told us, 'I like it here, Pamela is great' and 'She is very kind.'

The childminder had a folder for each young person in her care. These contained relevant and important information on the young person's wellbeing, changing interests and school reports. Through positive relationships with families and schools' information was continually updated. The childminder used this effectively, to meet young people's needs, enhance their strengths, hobbies, and interests. This resulted in young people who received care and support which was compassionate, responsive, and right for them.

The childminder and assistant had a strong understanding of what it meant for young people to be away from their families and had successfully created an inclusive and welcoming environment. Families were welcomed to the home if they were touring around Scotland prior to their children attending boarding school. The childminder told us, 'Our home is their home, and we make bonds that can last a lifetime' and 'I keep in touch with the boys throughout termtime, they know I'm here if they need me.' These thoughtful and caring approaches meant young people experienced transitions that fully supported their emotional wellbeing. Families told us, 'My child is extremely happy and settled, they look forward to going which is peace of mind for me,' 'We are very happy' and 'Pamela is a treasure.'

Young people benefitted from mealtime's that were a positive family experience. The childminder and assistant encouraged young people to plan and prepare meals for everyone in the home. On the day of the inspection a young person told us they were cooking 'Prawn spaghetti' for dinner and had picked herbs from the garden. This meant young people were being responsible, independent, and supported to develop lifelong skills. Young people told us, 'I feel safe here and the food is really good', 'There is plenty to do' and 'We can chill out, and we have nice meals together and play cards afterwards, if we want, we don't have to'.

The childminder was knowledgeable on how to keep young people safe. Families had provided permissions should medication be required during their child's stay and medication paperwork aligned with guidance. The childminder and assistant regularly updated their Child protection training and were knowledgeable on how to respond to concerns regarding a young person's wellbeing and welfare which kept them safe from harm.

## 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

Leadership	4 - Good
Leadership and management of staff and resources	4 - Good
Children play and learn	5 - Very Good
Playing, learning and developing	5 - Very Good
Children are supported to achieve	5 - Very Good
Nurturing care and support	5 - Very 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 iarrtas.

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.