

# Childminder inspection report

## McGonigal Minders Dunfermline

Service provided by: McGonigal, Darryl

Service provider number: SP2012983530

Care service number: CS2012308218

Inspection Type: Unannounced

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# 1 Introduction

Mrs McGonigal is registered as a childminder. Her service is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and no more than 1 is less than 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the children of the childminder's family and household.

When the childminder is working together with an assistant, the care service may be provided to a maximum of 8 children under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than 5 are not yet attending primary school and no more than 2 are under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the children of the childminders family and household.

Ross McGonigal and Betty Carstairs may work as assistants. Duties will be as designated by the childminder and agreed with parents.

Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.

Overnight care will not be provided.

Mrs McGonigal operates her childminding service from her family home. The property is a detached house situated within a residential cul-de-sac within Dalgety Bay. Children have access to a large lounge area, dining room, kitchen and downstairs toilet. The conservatory is set up as a dedicated play space. In addition, the children have access to a large, secure rear garden, which has a decked area and a range of outdoor play equipment. It is close to the local primary school and all local amenities.

There were three pre-school children present during the first day of inspection and two on the second day of inspection.

## What we did during our inspection

We wrote this report after three unannounced inspection visits which took place 2-12 June 2015.

We asked the service to issue Care Standard Questionnaires to parents, in order to allow us to take account of their views; four were completed and returned to us before the inspection visits.

We observed the childminder working with the children. We spoke with the children attending during the inspection visits.

We looked at:

- registers
- service diaries
- displays
- registration certificate
- questionnaires
- accident and incident records
- the environment and equipment
- children's personal learning plans and care plans
- staff planning documents
- staff training
- quality assurance documentation
- service risk assessments.

We gave feedback to the childminder during the inspection visits.

### Views of people using the service

Children told us they enjoyed coming to the service and that they had good fun with the childminder and her family. The children said they had friends at the service and enjoyed playing with them. We asked if they liked the childminder and they said yes she was "nice" and "kind" and "fun". The children told us a number of activities they enjoyed which included:

"Playing."

"Football."

"The park."

Some of their comments are recorded below:

"There's lava there, you are sitting on it!"

"I've got a ball."

"I'm X who are you?"

"Don't put your fingers in here (in-between decking boards) because you might get splinters."

"Splinters are quite sore getting taken out your skin."

Four families completed and returned our questionnaires before our inspection, all of the families gave very positive feedback about all aspects of the service. Comments included:

"Since my children have been in the care of Darryl, they have developed a lovely bond with her and her family. Darryl is always supporting their development through day-to-day activities."

"They are treated fairly and with respect. I am also happy with how Darryl works with us as parents e.g. toilet training, working as a team together has really helped this transition for our (child)."

"My (child) feels safe with Darryl and we are extremely happy with her service."

### Self assessment

Every year all care services complete a 'self assessment' telling us how their service is performing. We check to make sure this is accurate.

The childminder had submitted a self-assessment before the inspection and had given examples of the service strengths. The childminder could further develop any future self assessment by giving consideration to GIRFEC (Getting It Right For Every Child) and the SHANARRI indicators (Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible and Included).

### What the service did well

The childminder was knowledgeable about childcare and was committed to providing a high quality of care and support to the children.

The activities provided were age appropriate and child-centred and would support the children's health and development.

The childminder had a very good understanding of her responsibilities in terms of ensuring children's safety in the service.

### What the service could do better

The childminder could continue to develop how emergency evacuations are evaluated to ensure that these are effective in preparing children for emergencies.

The childminder could involve children in developing the risk assessments for the service to help them to identify risk for themselves.

The childminder could develop how she monitors the assistants to show how she is ensuring the quality of staffing in the service.

## 2 The grades we awarded

We grade the quality of care and support, the quality of the environment and the quality of management and leadership. If the childminder employs an assistant, we also grade the quality of staffing. In each case, we award a grade on a scale from 1 to 6, where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent.

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	4 - Good
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

## 3 Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder assessed her service as very good for this quality theme. We agreed with this evaluation after we observed the practice in the service, reviewed relevant documents and examined the feedback from the children and their families.

When we visited the service we saw that the children were enjoying themselves in the back garden, playing a variety of different games, which would help them to be active and stay healthy . We saw that the childminder made very good use of the outdoor space. It was a sunny day and we noted that the childminder was applying suncream to the children regularly and that the children were wearing their sun hats: this would help to keep them safe. The children had their bottles of water outside and we saw that they often stopped to have a drink which would keep them hydrated.

We spoke about the children attending the service. The childminder could tell us if they were meeting their developmental milestones and how she monitored their development to plan suitable activities to promote their learning and

development in relevant areas. The childminder was using GIRFEC and the SHANARRI indicators in children's files to ensure that she was meeting their needs effectively.

We saw that she worked in partnership with parents to ensure consistency of care for the children formally, updating their files at least every six months to ensure accuracy and the children's safety. Children's medical needs were carefully documented and checked with families. The childminder kept very good records of permission to administer and of administration of medications in the service. We spoke about how to document and review children's longer term medications in the service.

We spoke about how the childminder protects children in the service. The childminder had been trained in child protection for a previous role and had considered the differences between her responsibilities in the two roles. We were confident that she understood her responsibilities in protecting children from harm. The childminder used a social media page and explained that she would not share any pictures of children to help ensure their safety.

The childminder had a copy of Setting the Table and had updated her knowledge of nutrition guidelines recently, for example, aiming to provide seven portions of fruit and vegetables a day. The childminder had a very good understanding of how to manage allergies in the service.

The practice during the visits and from children's diaries and folders showed that the childminder encouraged children to be active and spend time outside regularly. The childminder explained that she supported children to access regular after school activities to maintain their peer relationships. The younger children were taken to book bugs and toddler groups to help them build social skills, early literacy and friendships. Throughout the inspection visits, we saw that the childminder was responsive to the children's differing needs and consulted with them. This would help them to feel respected in the service.

The children responded well to directions from the childminder: she used positive phrases and clear instructions to support them to make good choices about their behaviour. We spoke about behaviour management in the service and saw that the childminder had a very good understanding of promoting positive behaviour techniques. The childminder worked with a 'no blame' culture in the service, which was working well.

We spoke about using restorative practice and the childminder was interested in developing this further in her service to help the children to be responsible for their own behaviour and resolving any issues independently.

### Grade

**The quality of care and support is graded 5 - Very Good**

### Requirements

**Number of requirements - 0**

### Recommendations

**Number of recommendations - 0**

## 4 Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder had asked for permission from parents for children to use large garden equipment, such as the trampoline and the paddling pool. The children had access to a very good variety of toys and resources which they were encouraged to choose from themselves to promote their independence.

The childminder's home was clean, tidy and well organised for the care of children. The childminder had information displayed in her hall to keep parents informed about her service.

The childminder was aware of the need to register with the information commissioner for the storage of information electronically in the service.

The children enjoyed a very good range of activities throughout the inspection visits which were led by their own interests; we saw that the childminder had good quality resources which were age appropriate and well maintained. During our visits the children enjoyed, playing football, role playing in the playhouse, 'par kour' over garden equipment, building train sets, building with megablocks, reading stories, riding on tractors and bikes, playing hospitals, running around and having snacks together. The children were playing together most of the time but could separate off and play by themselves if they wanted to have a quieter time.



The childminder provides snacks and meals for the children and is registered as a food business with environmental health. We noted that she was aware of good hygiene practice and followed this when dealing with food. We saw that children helped to choose meals and snacks, to involve them in deciding what they would enjoy and what would be healthy to eat, to support their understanding of keeping their bodies healthy.

The children knew about good hygiene practice such as when to wash their hands. The childminder had appropriate Personal Protective Equipment available to prevent the spread of infection when nappy changing or supporting children to use the toilet. We saw that the childminder kept cleaning records to show how she maintained the hygiene to prevent the spread of infection in the service.

The childminder understood the need to document accident and incidents in the service, to share these with parents and when to notify the regulator about any of them.

We saw that regular fire drills took place and the children told us what they did and where they were to get to, to be safe. We saw that the childminder documented who was involved and how often fire safety equipment was checked. We spoke about considering evaluating the drills to show any issues which came up and trying to have them in different locations and for different 'emergencies' to ensure that children get the opportunity to learn what to do in the event of an emergency to ensure their safety.

The childminder had developed risk assessments for all areas of her premises, outings and activities this will help to ensure children's safety. Consideration could be given to involving the children in updating the risk assessment to help them to develop skills to assess risk for themselves.

### Grade

**The quality of environment is graded 5 - Very Good**

### Requirements

**Number of requirements - 0**

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations - 0

## 5 Quality of staffing

We only assess this where the childminder employs an assistant.

### Findings from the inspection

We found the service to be providing a good quality of staffing, We concluded this after we spoke to the childminder and children, took account of the feedback in the parents' questionnaires, and examined records in the service.

The childminder has her husband and mother registered as assistants in the service. They are available to provide support on occasions when the service is busy or if the childminder has an appointment. Her husband has a background in residential childcare and has to maintain his Continued Practice Development (CPD) as a condition of his SSSC registration. He has qualifications in childcare, has Child Protection Training and recently updated his First Aid qualification. Her mother had recently attended a Child Protection course and the updated information was shared in the service with the childminder and other assistant which the childminder said led to discussions about thresholds, appropriate restraint and 'normal' behaviours. We were satisfied that the staff team would be well equipped to deal with any concerns they had in the service.

The childminder explained that she discussed best practice guidance with her assistants to ensure that they knew about expected practice and any changes in the way care should be provided in the service. The childminder discussed the children's needs with the assistants when they were working in the service to update them on any changes since they last worked with the children. This will help to keep children safe. The childminder observed the assistants practice when they worked together to ensure that they were working to the service policies and procedures and current best practice guidance. The childminder said that the parents were very comfortable discussing any care needs or updates with her assistants when she is not available in the service, for example doing a nursery collection.

We spoke about developing how the childminder monitors performance and identifies any training needs in the service, for example the childminder could hold formal support and supervision meetings or performance reviews to show how she is identifying assistants achievements and areas for development. The childminder could also access formal monitoring systems to ensure quality of staff in the service.

### Grade

**The quality of staffing is graded 4 - Good**

### Requirements

**Number of requirements - 0**

### Recommendations

**Number of recommendations - 0**

## 6 Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder had updated children's files to address the recommendation made at the last inspection.

We spoke with the childminder about changes in best practice guidance and legislation since the last inspection and found the childminder to be well-informed. She had considered how to implement any changes in her service and identified areas for service development as part of her service self-evaluation. For example, the childminder was aware of the FSA guidance about allergens and had considered how this would impact on her service as she is registered as a food business and provided healthy meals and snacks for the children. The childminder had updated her children's files to reflect GIRFEC and planning for their next developmental steps since the last inspection. We noted that the childminder had accessed a variety of training since registration and was committed to updating her CPD regularly.

We saw that the childminder consulted with children and their families about how the service is developed. For example, she planned to get rabbits to help her children learn about caring for others and being responsible.

The childminder consulted with the children and their families about this change and updated and shared the service pet policy when the change was agreed. The families were consulted regularly on an informal basis and formally every six months. The children over five years old got their own evaluations to complete about the service, this will help them to feel included and valued. We saw that parents had been involved in identifying children's achievements and developmental next steps and this will help them to be involved in their learning and development. We spoke about ways to provide feedback to children and families about how their views had been used to change and develop the service. This will help them to feel included and that their views are respected and valued.

We spoke about sharing policies with families as they were due to be reviewed so that the childminder could use their feedback to develop them further.

The childminder meets up with other childminders regularly to go on trips and outings, which allow the children to build friendships and gives her the opportunity to discuss practice, changes in best practice guidance and legislation and share ideas.

The childminder told me she uses the Care Inspectorate website and SCMA website and newsletters to keep up to date with relevant information.

The childminder was well informed about current guidance such as Building the Ambition and had been using it to develop her service. We spoke about the Education Scotland website and the case studies which the childminder might find useful in developing her practice further.

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/learningandteaching/earlylearningandchildcare/buildingtheambition/support.asp>

### Grade

**The quality of management and leadership is graded 5 - Very Good**

### Requirements

**Number of requirements - 0**

### Recommendations

Number of recommendations - 0

## 7 What the service has done to meet any recommendations or requirements we made at our last inspection

### Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

### Previous recommendations

1. We recommend the childminder develop children's files to support confidentiality and identify and address next steps in learning.  
National Care Standards Early Education and Child Care up to the age of 16. Standard 6 Support and Development.

**This recommendation was made on 07 June 2013**

The childminder had updated the children's files to include GIRFEC and identify next steps for children's development.

## 8 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).

## 9 Enforcements

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection

## 10 Other issues

none

## 11 Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
7 Jun 2013	Announced (Short Notice)	Care and support	5 - Very Good
		Environment	5 - Very Good
		Staffing	5 - Very Good
		Management and Leadership	Not Assessed

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