

# Peace, Rebecca Child Minding

Orkney

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
25 March 2024

**Service provided by:**

**Service provider number:**  
SP2007965248

**Service no:**  
CS2007152242

## About the service

Rebecca Peace childminding operates from their own property situated in the country area of Toab, within walking distance of St. Andrews Primary School.

The childminder may care for a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one are under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate and overnight care will not be provided.

Children mainly play in the kitchen/dining area and garage. The garage has been repurposed as a play area with toys and games. A bedroom close to the kitchen is used for sleep and rest. There is ample parking for parents and a fenced garden for the children to play.

## About the inspection

This was an announced inspection which took place on 21 March 2024 between 13:00 and 16:30. 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, information submitted by the service, and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with children using the service
- spoke with one of their parents/carers
- spoke with the childminder
- spoke with visiting professionals
- observed practice and daily experiences
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

- Children and their families felt very welcomed and supported by the childminder.
- Children were supported with nurturing and caring interactions.
- Children were able to play and rest in a welcoming and clean environment. This included repurposing the garage as a playroom.
- Children benefitted from learning experiences and positive interactions which supported their progress and development.
- Since the previous inspection, the childminder had grown in confidence and ability. They were beginning to use self evaluation and quality assurance to make changes and improve their service.
- Children and their families benefitted from a childminder committed to their professional development. They were beginning to work closely with Orkney Islands Council to develop their knowledge and skills in early learning and childcare.

## 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?	4 - 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?

4 - Good

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

### 1.1 Nurturing care and support

Children and their families experienced a welcoming and friendly service. Daily chats and information sent using text messages, email, and What's App kept parents informed about their child's day. This meant they felt confident and reassured their child was happy and well looked after. A parent commented, "I trust Rebecca with my child and I feel they are more like a friend than a childminder".

Children were happy and settled in the childminder's care. They were chatty, confident, and enjoyed exploring and playing. The childminder was kind and gentle and responded to children's needs with cuddles and smiles.

Children were well supported in their personal care. The childminder was kind in their interactions and children's dignity and privacy was respected. Handwashing was embedded in practice to help keep children safe and well.

Children's individual needs were supported by information provided by parents and recorded in their personal plan. As a result, parents felt confident the childminder knew their children well in order to provide them with the care and support needed. Some personal plans were confusing and contained duplicate and unnecessary information. This increased the potential for details to be missed. We suggested the childminder streamline children's personal plans and they agreed to action this.

Children enjoyed relaxed and unhurried mealtimes. Parents provided all meals and snacks, which meant children were provided with food choices they enjoyed. The childminder smiled and chatted with the children, providing support and help to eat independently. This provided an opportunity for children to build a trusting relationship with the childminder.

The childminder demonstrated a good understanding of the benefit of sleep, rest, and relaxation. Children's sleep patterns from home were followed and they slept comfortably in a warm and cosy cot. Children were able to relax on the sofa, read stories, and play quietly.

### 1.3 Play and learning

Children were offered a variety of play resources to support and develop their learning. Toys and games were age-appropriate and included a pretend shop. This was stocked with a variety of familiar products and introduced the children to money and environmental print. The addition of loose parts and natural materials enriched the opportunities for creative and imaginative play.

Some language and literacy development were promoted during play. Children had fun interacting and playing with the childminder. The childminder modelled good listening and talking skills by getting down to the children's level. They helped children look for toy cars and helped them make roads on a playmat. There were a few books available for children to read and sand trays provided some mark making experiences.

Planning approaches to evaluate children's progress and achievements were continuing to evolve and develop with the support of Orkney Islands Council. Photographs and written observations were used to

capture children's learning and their individual progress. This helped inform planning to help ensure children were provided with experiences, toys, and games they enjoyed.

Whist weather dependent, children's emotional health and wellbeing was promoted through opportunities to play outdoors. The introduction of loose parts, tyres, and wooden planks supported learning using problem-solving skills and imagination.

The childminder made use of the local environment and amenities. They visited the library at Kirkwall and went for walks around the Peedie Sea. This ensured the children were getting to know their local environment, helping them grow into responsible, confident individuals.

## 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. Therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

Children were able to play and rest in a homely and comfortable environment. An attractive play area to the rear of the kitchen had been created for children to play safely and comfortably indoors. Children enjoyed cooking in the pretend kitchen and exploring a selection of wooden problem-solving toys.

Children had fun playing in the garage which had been repurposed as a playroom. This increased the space for children to play and move freely. A comfortable sofa had been moved into the garage, providing a space for stories and relaxation. A radiator had been fitted, helping to keep the space cosy and warm.

Children had been involved in choosing toys and games from a local recycling initiative. This supported their understanding of sustainability and encouraged them to grow into responsible citizens.

Children were kept safe and well in a clean environment. Infection prevention and control procedures were followed when supporting children in their personal care. Disposable aprons and gloves were available for use in the event of dealing with bodily fluids. Children were encouraged to wash their hands at key times, such as before eating and after going to the toilet. They were provided with individual towels to help prevent illness through cross-contamination.

Children were able to play in a safe and secure environment. Risk assessments had been undertaken by the childminder to help identify possible hazards and reduce accidents. This meant children's activities were not compromised and they were supported to enjoy fun and challenging play experiences.

## How good is our leadership?

## 4 - Good

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

Since the previous inspection, the childminder had grown in confidence and was enthusiastic to develop and improve their service.

The aims of the service included providing a safe, secure, and clean environment where children can play and learn, encouraging creativity and imagination through games and activities, developing moral values, and providing a healthy diet. This was shared with families, helping them understand what to expect from the service.

Children and their families were kept safe and well by a range of relevant policies and procedures. However, the policy for the safe administration of medication did not make clear the first dose of medication should be administered at home or what would happen if a child refused medication. The child protection policy did not reference current guidance, 'Child Protection for Scotland 2021'. The childminder agreed to action this.

There was some potential for children and families to become involved in the service and influence change. Parents were welcomed into the childminder's home and encouraged to chat and share information. The childminder had asked parents to provide feedback and to make suggestions for service improvement. Overall, they were very happy with the service. One suggestion was to add more loose parts and this had been actioned by the childminder. Children were at ease in the childminder's company and encouraged to choose toys and games they enjoyed.

The childminder demonstrated a good understanding of self evaluation and quality assurance. They were beginning to use the document, 'A Quality Framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare'. Through self evaluation they realised that having smaller numbers of children attending helped in building strong attachments, positive relationships, and in providing high quality play experiences. The childminder identified and discussed areas of for improvement and development. These included reviewing children's personal plans, improved planning approaches, and introducing more loose parts.

## How good is our staff team?

### 4 - Good

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

Children's wellbeing was supported through respectful and compassionate interactions. The childminder had a good relationship with the minded children and chatted and talked to them in a kind and friendly manner. They regularly checked to ensure they were happy and that their needs were met. This approach supported children to feel valued and secure and contributed to a positive ethos where children enjoyed attending the service.

Children and their families benefitted from a childminder who was committed to providing quality care. They were beginning to work closely with Orkney Islands Council and spoke positively about attending workshops and training events. This was beginning to impact on their practice and on improved outcomes for children.

The childminder demonstrated a good understanding of how to keep children safe and well. Their clean and tidy home was reflective of their good knowledge and understanding of infection prevention and control. They had completed a first aid course to ensure their knowledge and skills when dealing with a minor accident were current and up-to-date. They were confident in safeguarding procedures to protect children from harm and abuse. However, the childminder was not familiar with chronologies to record significant events in a child's life. We signposted the childminder to the guidance, 'Practice Guide to Chronologies', found at: <https://hub.careinspectorate.com/>.

The childminder used information from the organisation Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) to support their practice. This led to the addition of loose parts and natural materials and improved play experiences for children.

The childminder had developed close friendships and links with other childminders. They shared information and ideas to help improve outcomes for children. To support the childminder further with their professional

development, we signposted them to a range of resources on the Care Inspectorate Hub. Regularly accessing resources and best practice documents will help ensure good outcomes for children.

## 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 meet the individual needs of children, the childminder should become familiar with a range of good practice guidance and training materials and use these to improve the outcomes for children. This should include, but not be restricted to, guidance and training materials to develop their knowledge and competency about national and local child protection procedures and 'Getting it Right for Every Child' (GIRFEC).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I receive high quality care based on relevant evidence, guidance, and best practice' (HSCS 4.11).

**This area for improvement was made on 28 June 2022.**

#### Action taken since then

The childminder was working closely with Orkney Islands Council and had attended workshops and training events. As a result, they were more confident in self evaluation and in supporting children's progress and development.

The childminder demonstrated a good understanding of how to keep children safe and well. Their clean and tidy home was reflective of their good knowledge and understanding of infection prevention and control. They had completed a first aid course to ensure their knowledge and skills when dealing with a minor accident were current and up-to-date. They were confident in safeguarding procedures to protect children from harm and abuse.

**This area for improvement has been met.**

### 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?	4 - Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	4 - Good
1.3 Play and learning	4 - 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



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