

## **FACTSHEET 18**

### **Childcare and the law**

Knowing what to expect from the regulatory framework can help you have confidence in the service you choose.

On 1 April 2002, the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care (the Care Commission) became the independent regulator of a wide range of care services, including childminding and daycare of children. This changed on 1 April 2011 and The Care Commission was replaced by The Care Inspectorate.

The Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 can be viewed at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2001/8/contents>

The Act ensures that only people who are fit to do so can provide, manage, or work in a regulated care service and, where appropriate, that only fit premises and equipment are used to provide the service. It also specifies other requirements of care services including the keeping of records and reporting of incidents.

The Care Inspectorate regulates services by inspecting them against legislative requirements and the relevant national care standards. For childcare services these are the National Care Standards for children up to the age of 16. The standards can be found on the internet at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Support-Social-Care/Regulate/Standards>

Where settings also provide local authority funded Early Learning and Childcare, inspections are carried out in collaboration with Education Scotland. In these cases, the quality indicators of The Child at the Centre and the Curriculum for Excellence can also help describe national expectations. In particular these provide advice about the curriculum, children's progress assessment, support for learning and quality assurance.

For information on how the Curriculum for Excellence relates to early years education go to

<https://education.gov.scot/scottish-education-system/Early%20learning%20and%20childcare>

The Care Inspectorate operates from offices across Scotland and its headquarters are located in Dundee. Further information and contact details can be found at: [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

### **How do I check whether services are registered?**

Inspection reports are available online at the Care Inspectorate website. You can also ask the provider to see their registration certificate and the latest inspection report.

For information about childcare services available in Dundee please go to [www.families.scot](http://www.families.scot), contact DUNDEE CHILDREN & FAMILIES INFORMATION SERVICE at [cis@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:cis@dundeecity.gov.uk) or telephone 01382 433900.

**Information is also available at our Dundee pages of the national website where alongside details about childcare services you can also access our Online Directory for further advice, groups, activities and other services available for families locally and nationally**

[www.families.scot](http://www.families.scot)

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[www.dundeecity.gov.uk/childcare/childcareinfo](http://www.dundeecity.gov.uk/childcare/childcareinfo)

[www.families.scot](http://www.families.scot)

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