

**Childminder: Skye Jolly, Local Authority, Moray**

**Skye Jolly, 34, lives in the small village of Aberlour in Moray. Having previously worked in the NHS, she's new to childminding, and started on her new career path working with children after spotting information about the Scottish Childminding Partnership campaign which supports people thinking of getting back into work, or switching career to become a registered childminder.**

### **First Steps**

Skye said: "When I first decided to become a childminder, I didn't have a clue where to start, I did some research online and quickly found the Scottish Childminding Partnership's [recruitment campaign](#). This was so helpful and was a fantastic overview of what to expect of childminding in general such as getting started and how long it might take me to become registered as a childminder, it helped to give me a good grounding and really confirmed to myself that working with children was what I wanted to do."

### **Support to Become a Registered Childminder**

As with all childcare providers in Scotland, childminders are regulated and inspected by the Care Inspectorate and there are established processes to go through to get started. Becoming a registered can take up to six months. Skye said: "Completing the paperwork and going through the process to become registered is a good thing – it helps to demonstrate professionalism and quality in childminding and ensures a commitment to working with children and providing a fantastic childminding service. The Care Inspectorate was a great help. The form you fill in to register takes a little time, but it is well laid out which makes it simple. They help you with your policies and procedures. If, like me you've never written any before and need an extra hand, they were always happy to help.

"I also felt so supported by the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) throughout the registration process. For example, if I needed guidance with any policies and procedures, or advice on the insurance I would require to work as a childminder in my own home – SCMA was there every step of the way. I was even provided with the details of an SCMA childminding support officer who I could contact with questions and one-to-one support."



**Skye Jolly**

## Getting Started!

Skye opened her door to her childminding setting on 1 November 2022 – six months after first sending her note of interest in becoming a childminder. “I have loved getting to know all of the children and families since we started this adventure together. I’ve encouraged the children to tell me all about themselves, what they like and don’t like, it has really helped us to get to know each other quickly, it’s been really lovely.

Syke is mum to two boys Noha, 10 and Edward, two. Edward was born during lockdown when there was little or no contact allowed with others. She’s delighted that her new career choice has provided the opportunity to play and learn with a mix of ages of other children every day.

“I wouldn’t be able to work and earn and income and spend time with my boys at the same time if I hadn’t pushed ahead with the desire to become a childminder. He loves playing with the other children who come to my setting now, it’s lovely to see.”

Skye’s setting has quickly become invaluable to families in the local area, particularly to those who require childcare to help run their own business:

Kate and John Smith are farmers who recently took over the running of delicatessen, The Spey Larder, in Aberlour: *“Joe is 16 months old and when he was very little I was bringing him to work with me every day. As he started toddling around, it became obvious that I needed to find an alternative but local childcare is a huge issue and I know many young families here struggle to find anything without having to travel long distances, which is just not practical. Joe has settled in brilliantly, he loves going to the local park and toddler groups with Skye and the other children and I’m so reassured when I receive updates about everything Joe has been doing each day such as what he’s been eating, the activities he’s been trying and the things he’s been learning. Our family business is a full-time job for myself and my husband, we’ve just bought the Deli and so it’s an incredibly busy time for us in working to make it a success - I don’t know what we would have done without Skye, she’s really saved us!”*

## Interested in becoming a professional childminder?

SCMA is delighted to be embarking on another recruitment campaign with a fantastic package of fully funded support and training available to successful applicants, providing everything needed to establish a new childminding business from home. The aim is to increase the number of childminding businesses, targeting more areas of Scotland where there are currently not enough childminders to meet the level of demand from working families seeking local, high-quality, nurturing and flexible childcare. You don’t need any previous childcare experience to become a professional childminder – but it is essential that you have a passion for working with and supporting the learning and development of children.

To find out more about the target communities and areas, please visit our [website](#)