

# Smith, Kym Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 27 April 2021

**Service provided by:**  
Kym Smith

**Service provider number:**  
SP2011981624

**Care service number:**  
CS2011281408

## Introduction

The service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 11 July 2011.

Kym Smith is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children under the age of 16, of whom no more than six shall be under 12 years, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and no more than one shall be under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family.

Only the person named on the certificate of registration can care for minded children.

The service is provided by Kym Smith and operates from the family home in a cul-de-sac within a residential area. It is situated in the Lanark area of South Lanarkshire and is close to local amenities including schools, nurseries and parks.

The aims of the service include:

"to give children a loving, caring environment where they feel safe and secure, have fun and enjoy themselves."

## What we did during our inspection

We compiled this report following an unannounced inspection which took place on Tuesday 27 April 2021 between the hours of 1.30pm and 2.30pm, when nine minded children were present.

The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

We discussed the general practice and routines within the service, viewed the areas accessible to the children and sampled some documentation. This included children's personal plans and certificate of insurance.

We discussed our main concerns and significant areas for improvement. We phoned the childminder to feedback and discuss our findings in more detail at 5.15pm that afternoon, after childminding hours.

Due to these significant concerns, we issued an Improvement Notice on 30 April 2021. This detailed the improvements required to be put in place within set timescales. We will carry out further monitoring visits to the service to ensure improvements have been made. This information can be found on the service document on our website.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC), Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children, by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their families to work with services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

## Views of people using the service

We observed the children who were present on the day of the inspection. All children were within one playroom in the childminder's home. Children were not focussed or engaged in any meaningful play experiences over the course of our visit.

We spoke with one parent who was collecting her child on the day of the inspection. They were happy with the level of care and support given to their child and gave examples of where the childminder had supported their child and undertaken activities to suit their interests.

## Self assessment

The self-evaluation was not requested prior to this inspection.

## What the service did well

The childminder was responsive to some of the children's needs and requests over the inspection. They recognised when children were tired, needing a cuddle or required support when going to the toilet and responded to this. Good progress was being made in addressing the requirements within the timescales detailed within the Improvement Notice.

## What the service could do better

The childminder must ensure she adheres to the conditions detailed on the Certificate of Registration and follows legislation and current best practice guidance for childminding services, with priority being given to requirements noted in the Improvement Notice. This is in order to ensure children's care, support, health and wellbeing needs are met and that the service is well-led and managed.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	2 - Weak
Quality of environment	2 - Weak
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	2 - Weak

## Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

The childminder was caring for nine young children on the day of the inspection. She was responsive to younger children who were tired, offering cuddles prior to them going for a nap and supporting children in going to the toilet and washing their hands. Although responding to some of the children's immediate needs or requests, she was unable to fully meet the individual care and support needs of all of the children in her care due to the high number of children in attendance. This had the potential to impact negatively on children's overall health, safety and wellbeing.

We requested to see the personal plans for all children who were present during our visit. There were no written records for four of the nine children and very limited information in place for the remaining five children. Not all of this information was complete or current. There was limited information for a child who may require medication while attending the service. This lack of required information had the potential to impact negatively on children's overall health, safety and wellbeing.

These concerns resulted in us issuing an Improvement Notice detailing requirements with short timescales. Good progress was being made. We will continue to monitor the improvements within the service to ensure positive outcomes for children.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 2 - weak

## Quality of environment

### Findings from the inspection

The children were being cared for in an extended part of the childminder's home. This area had an open-plan playroom and kitchen area with a variety of toys and resources stored at the children's level within the playroom. The kitchen led on to an enclosed rear garden where there was a variety of outdoor play equipment.

No notifications had been submitted to inform us of the planned refurbishment or extension of the childminder's home. A subsequent variation to use this area for childminding purposes had been refused due to a continued lack of response from the childminder within extended timescales. The indoor and outdoor areas had not been fully risk assessed by the childminder. As the variation had not been progressed, we had not agreed the use of this area for childminding. Therefore, we could not be assured of its suitability. During our visit we saw that children were not engaged in any meaningful play experiences within the areas used.

We advised the childminder to undertake a risk assessment of the indoor and outdoor environment where children will now be cared for. This should include the management of the family's pets over childminding hours. This is to ensure children's health and safety. (See Area for Improvement 1)

We discussed and observed the childminder's general infection prevention and control procedures and practices and the additional procedures to be put in place in relation to Covid-19. We concluded that the childminder was not aware of the current Scottish Government guidance for childminders during the pandemic and was not following best practice for nappy changing to ensure and maintain a safe environment for children.

As a result, this increased the risk of possible transmission of Covid-19 and had an impact on children's overall health, safety and wellbeing. We sent the childminder links to the current Scottish Government guidance entitled 'Coronavirus (Covid-19) childminder services' and 'Infection prevention and control in daycare of children and childminding settings' to inform and refresh her knowledge in this area and assist her in making the required improvements. We acknowledged the immediate improvements the childminder agreed to undertake to improve infection prevention and control on the day of the inspection. This included purchasing a nappy changing mat, discarding the open basket of nappies stored within the bathroom and storing children's nappies in individual lidded boxes out with the bathroom.

These concerns resulted in us issuing an Improvement Notice detailing requirements with short timescales. Good progress was being made. We will continue to monitor the improvements within the service to ensure positive outcomes for children.

### Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

### Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 1

1. We advised the childminder to devise risk assessments for her service. This should include:

- the indoor areas the minded children accessed
- the garden
- the management and arrangements for the family's three pet dogs during childminding hours

This would ensure that care and support is in line with the Health and Social Care Standards which state "My environment is secure and safe." (HSCS 5.17)

**Grade:** 2 - weak

## Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

A friend of the childminder had been assisting in the service for a few months. We had not been notified of this or undertaken fitness checks as to their suitability. More than the maximum of six children within specified age groups had regularly been cared for at any one time. This was outwith the conditions of registration of the service.

The childminder was reminded of her roles and responsibilities as the provider of a childminding service and the importance of adhering to the conditions of registration. This is to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of minded children and to ensure the service is well-led and managed.

The childminder had not attended any training since the last inspection. They had accessed the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) website to browse online information and training in relation to Covid-19 after the inspection visit and planned to undertake some of this. We have advised child protection refresher training is also undertaken as a priority as this was recommended at the last inspection. (See Area for Improvement 1)

These concerns resulted in us issuing an Improvement Notice detailing requirements with short timescales. Good progress was being made. We will continue to monitor the improvements within the service to ensure positive outcomes for children.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 1

1. The childminder should access a refresher course in child protection in order to keep her skills and knowledge up to date.

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

"I am protected from harm, neglect, abuse, bullying and exploitation by people who have a clear understanding of their responsibilities." (HSCS 3.20)

**Grade:** 2 - weak

**What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection**

## Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

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

### Previous recommendations

#### Recommendation 1

The childminder should access a refresher course in child protection in order to keep her skills and knowledge up to date.

National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Standard 3: Health and Wellbeing.

This recommendation was made on 22 September 2017.

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

The childminder had not completed any training in child protection since the last inspection. Therefore, this has been repeated at this inspection.

### 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).

### Enforcement

Please see Care Inspectorate website ([www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)) for details of enforcement action taken against the service.

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
18 Aug 2017	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	Not assessed
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
17 Oct 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
10 Jan 2013	Announced (short notice)	Care and support	3 - Adequate
		Environment	3 - Adequate
		Staffing	3 - Adequate
		Management and leadership	Not assessed



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