

Smurfs Child Minding

Kirkcaldy

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
25 May 2021

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2018989880

Service no:
CS2018366660

About the service

This service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 26 September 2019.

Smurfs is operated by Aleksandra Janda and is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than 3 may be of an age not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 may be less than 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the children of the childminder's family.

The service operates from an end terrace house within a residential area of Kirkcaldy in close proximity to the local school, shops and other amenities. Childminding takes place on the ground floor of the home and children have access to a safely enclosed back garden.

The aims of the service included:/A sample of the aims included:

"I will strive to:

- Provide a safe and secure environment for your child.
- Provide a clean environment in which your child can play, learn, develop and grow.
- Recognise your child as an individual and provide opportunities for your child to develop their own personal interests.
- Develop moral values that promote consideration for individual and cultural differences."

We wrote this report following an unannounced site visit inspection which took place on 19 May 2021 and was continued using virtual methodology. Feedback was shared with the childminder via telephone call on 23 May 2021. This was a focused inspection to evaluate how well children were being supported during the Covid-19 pandemic. We evaluated the service based on key areas that are vital to the support and wellbeing of children experiencing care during the pandemic. Evidence was gathered using the following methods; site visit, virtual discussions with the childminder/staff and management interviews, emails from parents/telephone calls with parents and evidence submitted remotely by the service.

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

What people told us

The children present during the inspection were observed to be happy and very secure in the care of the childminder as they confidently approached the inspector and included her in their play. They enjoyed painting pictures and playing with a range of resources available before walking to and from the school and then enjoying a snack.

We issued an email to the childminder to circulate to the parents of minded children to allow them an opportunity to provide feedback on their children's experiences of the service during the pandemic. Two parents provided a response demonstrating a high level of satisfaction with the service.

An anonymised summary of these comments is shown below;

"My child did not attend prior to the pandemic. Meetings took place outside with the use of face masks and safe distancing and my child is dropped off and picked up at the door. My child is very happy here as am I. There is very good communication and professional childcare with regular information shared including seeing the Covid specific risk assessment."

"I have received the risk assessment and we have discussed the new rules that need to be introduced to keep everyone safe. I have opportunity to discuss my child's needs and development with Aleksandra over the phone during the pandemic due to doorstep drop off and collection of my child. I am aware of increased handwashing and cleaning of toys and equipment and all parents wear a face mask when collecting and dropping off children. In my opinion Aleksandra is doing a very good job with the children. She looks after them very well and my child adores her and enjoys going there. She spends a lot of time with them, drawing, playing, reading and developing their skills. She also takes children outside for play. I have seen the Covid risk assessment a few times.'

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 and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	3 - Adequate
--	--------------

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?

3 - Adequate

Quality Indicator 5.1

We evaluated against Quality Indicator 5.1: children's health and wellbeing are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19. This included the following;

Children are nurtured and supported throughout their changed experience in their early learning and childcare setting.

Effective communication with families enables responsive care to support children through changing circumstances.

Children were relaxed and confident due to the warm and comforting care which supported positive relationships between the childminder and children. Their level of comfort and security was further enhanced as the childminder supported and reassured children in their home language and English. This also supported effective communication with the parents using the service, ensuring that important information regarding changes to the service during the pandemic were shared, enabling Covid-19 safe practice to keep children healthy.

There were frequent and consistent opportunities for outdoor play and exercise through the daily walks to school and use of the garden and green spaces in the local community. This contributed to children's overall wellbeing and increased their access to fresh air, minimising the risk of cross infection.

Parents confirmed regular communication about changes to the service and receipt of the Covid-19 risk assessment. This was maintained through use of social media platforms and brief discussions upon pick up and drop off and supported parents to remain abreast of any changes in the service due to the pandemic. We discussed how the childminder could now signpost parents to other relevant websites such as 'Parent Club'. This would support them to keep up to date with guidance in regard to Covid-19 and its impact on their child's childcare provision.

Children were beginning to understand how the pandemic affected their experiences within the childminding setting as the childminder had accessed online videos to support them. The childminder should now explore further ways to help children understand the changes to their routines and use fun and imaginative ways to include them in these changes. Considering ways to involve children more in the reduction and regular rotation of toys and games would limit risk of cross infection whilst supporting children to feel included and make choices to support their current interests. See area for improvement one.

Personal care plans for children must be reviewed and updated by parents at least once every six months to ensure information held is current and relevant to children's lives. This is to support prompt communication with parents in the event of an emergency or any suspected Covid-19 outbreak. These personal care plans should now be developed further to capture information to support planning to meet children's needs and capture their ongoing development and next steps, which should be kept under regular review. This would enable the childminder to tailor children's experiences in the service to meet their needs and support their emotional wellbeing. See requirement one.

Quality indicator 5.2

We evaluated against Quality Indicator 5.2: Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff. This included the following;

Children are protected as staff take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection.

The childminder demonstrated an understanding of the current Covid-19 guidance for her service. Appropriate physical distancing of adults and use of facemasks along with staggered drop off and collection of children was carried out. There was a clear procedure in place should the childminder or minded child present with Covid-19 symptoms, which had been communicated to families supporting a prompt and appropriate response for children's comfort and reassurance. These measures contributed to children remaining healthy as guidance was followed and adhered to.

The home was very clean and tidy with adequate materials to support effective cleaning which included attention to high touch points to minimise risk of transmission of Covid-19. The childminder paid attention to her own handwashing at frequent and relevant points throughout the inspection and supervised children's handwashing, ensuring this was effective, contributing to their positive wellbeing. However, there were missed opportunities for handwashing at key points such as after eating and after nappy changes, which should be addressed. This is to ensure children remain healthy and develop positive habits for life.

A detailed Covid-19 risk assessment was in place and dated to show regular review. The childminder should now ensure that the minimising actions identified within the risk assessment are consistently practiced as nappy changing procedures were not followed, posing a risk of cross infection from the changing mat to children's resources as it was not cleaned with appropriate cleaning materials and was then used by a child for their play. This should be addressed in line with identified actions from the service's own Covid-19 risk assessment to ensure children remain healthy and reduce their risk of cross infection. See area for improvement one.

On arrival for inspection there was no ventilation of the home and we had to request that windows were opened. Although regular extended periods are spent outdoors, attention must be paid to ensure adequate ventilation within the home when using this space. This is to reduce the risk of transmission of infection and keep children healthy. See area for improvement two.

Requirements

1. In order to ensure that information held on children is current, relevant and used to support improved outcomes, the provider must ensure that personal care plans are further developed to capture relevant information relating to children's interests, continued progress and next steps to support planning of provision and ensure all information held is updated with parents at least once every six months or sooner if there are any changes to a child's care or welfare. This must be achieved by 23 July 2021.

This is in order to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standard 1.15 which states "My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices." It is also necessary to comply with Regulation X (name) of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland Regulations 2011.

Areas for improvement

1. The provider should reduce and rotate resources to support effective cleaning, whilst developing ways to involve children in this and other changes to help them understand why these are needed.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that "I am as involved as I can be in agreeing and reviewing any restrictions to my independence, control and choice." (HSCS 2.6).

2. The provider should ensure consistent practice in regard to nappy changing procedures as identified within her own Covid-19 specific risk assessment especially in relation to the cleaning and storage of the changing mat.

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

3. The provider should ensure appropriate ventilation within the home during minding hours to reduce this risk of transmission of Covid-19 and keep children healthy.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that "My environment has plenty of natural light and fresh air, and the lighting, ventilation and heating can be adjusted to meet my needs and wishes." (HSCS 5.19).

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?	3 - Adequate
5.1 Children's health and well being are supported and safeguarded during COVID-19	3 - Adequate
5.2 Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff	4 - Good

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.