

Puddle Jumpers Child Minding

Cupar

Type of inspection:
Announced (short notice)

Completed on:
4 June 2021

Service provided by:
Katherine Omond

Service provider number:
SP2017989579

Service no:
CS2017362938

About the service

This service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 18 May 2018.

Puddle Jumpers is operated by Katherine Omond and is registered to a maximum of 6 children at any one time aged under 16 years, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than 1 is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. Overnight care is not provided. Minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate.

The service operates from the home within the village of Kingskettle in close proximity to the local school, shops and other community amenities. Childminding takes place on the upper level of the home and children have access to a large and safely enclosed back garden.

A sample of the service aims of the service included:

"I aim to provide a safe nurturing home from home for your children aged 0 -16 who need daytime childcare. I am an inclusive childcare service open to considering a placement for all children. Puddle jumpers is focused on play and providing learning/development opportunities suited to your child's individual needs. I aim for all the children in my care to feel safe and to enjoy their time with me and the other children in my care. I feel the greatest super powers our children can find is positive self-esteem, relationships and resilience. I will work with each child as an individual taking into account their personal needs, preferences etc and that of their carers. I am a strong supporter of the Upstart movement which is campaigning for our educational curriculum to follow a kindergarten based system similar to that of Scandinavian and other European countries. The opportunities I provide for 3 - 7 yr olds will try to reflect that approach."

We wrote this report following a short notice announced site visit inspection which took place on 31 May 2021 and was continued using virtual methodology. Feedback was shared with the childminder via telephone call on 4 June 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, emails from 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

We spoke with the two children present during the inspection who were able to tell us about their handwashing procedures and what they enjoyed in the service. They were confident, happy and keen to demonstrate their favourite games and skills during outdoor play.

We were unable to speak to parents on the day of inspection, however two parents responded to an email we sent which demonstrated a high level of satisfaction with the service and supported our inspection findings.

A sample of the comments is shown below;

"Katy keeps in touch with us by email and via 2 'Whatsapp' groups. She has set up a group for all the parents of the children she looks after where she posts regular information that applies to everyone. The second 'Whatsapp' group is for sending individualised information relating to our children only. Katy sends us weekly messages/photos via 'Whatsapp' to let us see what our children have been doing. She tells us about any significant achievements and raises any issues or concerns in relation to socialisation/behaviour. Katy always encourages us to speak to her about any concerns we may have in relation to COVID or any new policies. She has been clear about changes to her service. Katy has put a number of policies in place to reduce risk of COVID infection. I think Katy has done really well at supporting the children emotionally during COVID. She is very thoughtful and works hard to ensure children feel included and connected. For example ,she organised a family zoom quiz during lockdown."

"Katy has provided both regular personal "Whatsapp" pictures and information on a daily basis when my child is in her care. This included information about his activities and level of engagement. If any issues arose or she wanted to pass on more information than "Whatsapp" allowed we spoke over the phone or had a socially distanced conversation at pick up. Katy puts an emphasis on mental wellbeing and child centred creative play which has had a huge positive impact on my child. Katy has actively informed us of her policies and changes to services throughout the pandemic and has acted with the safety of all of her users using public guidelines. I have seen and agreed the risk and safety policies as adjusted and created for the pandemic. Katy asked if there were any updates in my information when we agreed the hours for the return of children to school and a return to her normal services as an after-school minder. I will miss the support and kindness that she has shown both my child and I."

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?	4 - Good
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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?

4 - Good

Quality Indicator 5.1

We evaluated against Quality Indicator 5.1: children's health and wellbeing are support 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.

Parents were kept informed of changes in line with Government guidance in response to the pandemic. Communication methods included using a social media platform to share information as a parents' group and individually. A video tour of the home and garden had also been created to share with families to support transition for new children. Parents confirmed they were kept informed of all changes to policies and risk assessments and were signposted to relevant websites to source further information themselves which was appreciated.

Children were happy, secure, and confident in the service as they enjoyed genuinely warm, loving interactions from the childminder who placed a strong focus on supporting their emotional wellbeing. Children were empowered to make decisions, choices and lead their play through frequent consultation which supported their involvement in changes affecting them throughout the pandemic.

Children were building resilience and developing an understanding of the pandemic and changes in place as the childminder supported them through genuine consultation and fun play opportunities. For example, a short discussion known as 'a rose and a thorn' supported a daily 'emotional check in' with children. The childminder demonstrated a strong understanding of children's mental health and drew on this to offer age appropriate and individualised approaches to reducing children's anxiety. Additionally, a risk/benefit approach to increased outdoor play opportunities supported children to make sensible choices, reduced anxiety and built healthy behaviours.

Close supervision of children and involvement in their play helped keep children safe and added to their enjoyment and fun whilst promoting new learning and language. This was because the childminder built their capacity to problem solve through introducing further challenge in their play.

We found that personal care plan information was shared by siblings and was reviewed annually. Each child must have their own personal plan information which is kept under review at least once every six months, or sooner if there is any change to a child's care or welfare. We discussed how this information could be developed further to capture children's time in the service and support planning to meet their needs. We suggested using the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators to capture children's achievements and recording the next steps which were verbally identified by the childminder. A review of 'all about me' information following extended breaks such as periods of lockdown would also support planning for children's transition back to the service. See requirement one.

There were no recent registers of attendance kept for minded children. This meant we were unable to confirm whether the service was operating within the terms of their registration. See area for improvement 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.

A robust Covid-19 risk assessment was in place which was kept under regular review and shared with parents. This meant parents were fully aware of any changes in place and provided reassurance that appropriate action was taken in line with Covid-19 guidance supporting children's positive health. The childminder had recently introduced a puppy to the home, and we asked her to slightly revise the risk assessment for this, to take further account of cross infection risks to keep children healthy.

Parents confirmed that physical distancing was maintained for drop off and collection of children and when having discussions within the garden. Transition visits were carried out in the garden and supported by a video tour of the home. The childminder was clear there was no social distancing between herself and children as they were given appropriate physical reassurance when required. This contributed to children's positive emotional wellbeing and security whilst reducing risk through contact with other adults.

Children had their own individual hand towels and were actively encouraged and supervised to wash their hands frequently. Rhymes and songs helped to ensure this was carried out effectively whilst making this fun and supporting their understanding of why this was needed.

The home was visibly clean, and the childminder ensured frequent cleaning of the environment and resources used, supporting children's positive health. In addition, the childminder ensured adequate ventilation, increased outdoor play and reduction of soft furnishings. These measures contributed to children experiencing a lower risk of cross infection.

Clear procedures for the management of any child displaying signs or symptoms of Covid-19 were in place. This meant that any symptomatic children could be isolated quickly to avoid the potential spread of infection, reducing risk to other children.

We found that disposable aprons were not available for nappy changes or dealing with any suspected case of Covid-19. We discussed this with the childminder and advised to ensure appropriate PPE was held and used in line with current Covid-19 guidance for childminding settings. This is to reduce the risk of cross contamination to maintain children's health and wellbeing. See area for improvement two.

Requirements

1. In order to ensure that accurate and up to date information is held which supports responsive care and planning for children's development, the provider must ensure individual personal care plans are in place for all children, which are reviewed at least once every six months or sooner. These should be developed further to capture children's progress and plan for their next steps. This must be achieved by 28 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 5 (1),(2)(a),(b)(i)(ii)(iii)(Personal Plan) of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland Regulations 2011.

Areas for improvement

1. The provider should resume previous practice of maintaining a daily register of children's attendance; this is to ensure all children are accounted for and provides assurance that the service is operating within the terms of registration.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that "I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed." (HSCS 4.23).

2. The provider should ensure that appropriate PPE is available and used in line with current guidance regarding Covid-19. This is in relation to the use of disposable aprons for nappy changes and the care and management of any suspected outbreak of Covid-19 within the setting.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that "1.24 Any treatment or intervention that I experience is safe and effective." (HSCS 1.24).

Detailed evaluations

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

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