

Smurfs Child Minding

Kirkcaldy

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
26 April 2023

Service provided by:

Service provider number:
SP2018989880

Service no:
CS2018366660

About the service

Aleksandra Janda provides a childminding service from their family home in Kirkcaldy, Fife. The childminder is registered to provide a care service for a maximum of six children at any one time up to the age of 16, of whom no more than three may be of an age not yet attending primary school, and of whom no more than one may be less than 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's own family.

The service is close to the local primary school, nursery, shops, parks, and other amenities. Childminding mainly takes place on the ground floor with children having access to the main open plan lounge and kitchen/ dining area. The toilet facilities are on the first floor of the home. Children also have access to an enclosed large rear garden.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Monday 24 April 2023 between 11:40 and 14:40. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate. Feedback was given on Wednesday 26 April 2023.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spent time with two children using the service
- spoke with two parents
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Children experienced warm, kind and nurturing interactions supporting them to feel comfortable, safe and secure.
- The childminder knew children well and interactions were warm and responsive.
- The childminder provided a welcoming, clean and homely environment for children.
- The childminder should think of ways to ask the views and opinions of parents and carers in a way which helps to improve the service.
- The childminder should review their approach to children's personal planning to ensure it is individual and up-to-date.

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, play and learning?	4 - Good
How good is our setting?	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	3 - Adequate
How good is our staff team?	4 - Good

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

How good is our care, play and learning?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good where several strengths impacted positively on children's outcomes and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality Indicator 1.1 - Nurturing care and support

Children attending the service were happy, settled and relaxed in the care of the childminder. Their needs were met through nurturing and caring interactions, which meant children felt loved, safe and secure. The childminder offered cuddles and reassurance to children that were upset and spoke calmly and quietly with children. Parents told us that their children love going to the childminder.

Personal plans were in place for all children and contained important information to meet their needs. The childminder communicated regularly with parents to share children's learning and experiences. We found that personal plans were not updated regularly and did not include next steps. We suggested that the childminder review their approach to personal planning to ensure that they are reviewed regularly and contain next steps. This will ensure that children receive care that is tailored to their individual needs (**see area for improvement 1**).

The childminder provided a sociable and unhurried snack experience for children with positive interactions. They recognised when children were hungry and respected their views on what they would like to eat. The childminder sat with children and spoke with them as they ate. They ensured there was very good supervision during these times. As a result, children experienced a calm, safe and social mealtime.

No children required medication at the time of the inspection. The childminder had a medication policy and procedure in place. This was in line with best practice guidance 'Management of Medication in Day care and Childminding Services'.

Quality Indicator 1.3 - Play and learning

Experiences were well considered for children's different ages and stages. The childminder used creative approaches to successfully engage and enrich their play and learning by developing specific areas. For example, there was chalkboard in the corridor, space to draw and areas to rest and relax.

Children routinely spent time outdoors exploring the local and surrounding community. They went on walks to the local park, school and shops. The childminder told us how they actively chose what to buy in the shop. As a result, children were receiving regular fresh air and exercise which supports their wellbeing.

The childminder demonstrated a good understanding of child development. They knew children very well as individuals. They were meaningfully involved in leading their play and learning through a balance of spontaneous and planned experiences. For example, children enjoyed listening to stories, playing on the trampoline and in the sand outside. This enabled children to feel secure and confident in their relationship with the childminder.

Children's language development was supported by the childminder through appropriate conversations and role modelling. There were opportunities for children to engage in activities and experiences that supported literacy and numeracy. The childminder engaged children in meaningful conversations to develop their speech and language. As a result, children were challenged at an appropriate level.

Areas for improvement

1. All personal plans should be reviewed with families at least every six months in line with best practice guidance, or as changes occur. This would ensure planning documents are current and information is up to-date.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: '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' (HSCS 1.15).

How good is our setting?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good where several strengths impacted positively on children's outcomes and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality Indicator 2.2 - Children experience high quality facilities

The childminder created a welcoming and homely environment for children, which was clean and well maintained. Children were confident moving around the home which showed they felt safe and secure. Areas used for childminding were spacious and enabled children to move around and engage in their chosen activities. For example, the arrangement of furniture provided ample space for children to enjoy floor play and comfortable seating supported children to rest and relax.

A calm, relaxing atmosphere had been developed. This resulted in children being happy and relaxed in the childminder's home. Children benefitted from a well-developed and considered environment, both inside and out. There were dedicated spaces which allowed children to choose from a wide variety of age-appropriate resources, activities and books. We suggested that the childminder review what was on offer to include more natural resources to support children's developing curiosity and problem solving.

Information about children was kept in a secure manner. Sensitive information was only shared with those who needed it to meet children's needs. As a result, children's information was protected and storage complied with relevant best practice.

Children were encouraged to wash their hands at key times and effective cleaning procedures had been put in place. The childminder was confident about their role in cleaning and supporting children to develop routines in hand washing. As a result, infection risks were minimised for children.

How good is our leadership?

3 - Adequate

We evaluated this key question as adequate. While the strengths had a positive impact on outcomes for children, key areas needed to improve.

Quality Indicator 3.1 - Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The childminder was welcoming; they engaged well with the inspection process and were responsive to our suggestions for further development.

The childminder provided a warm and welcoming service, helping children feel loved, safe and secure. They communicated regularly with families through chats and WhatsApp groups. This helped the childminder to reflect on the needs of the children and make changes to support them. This meant that children benefited from the care that was right for them.

Formal systems were not always in place to include all in the development and evaluation of the service. Communication with families was effective, with the childminder using daily chats and social media apps to update them about their child's experiences and to provide service information. The childminder regularly sent photos to families to ensure they felt included and involved in their children's care. This enabled parents to be involved in their child's daily experiences.

The childminder should consider establishing a more formal process for consulting and evidencing parents' views. This will support the childminder to identify improvements and enable families to drive developments. This was an area for improvement made at the last inspection and will continue **(see continued area for improvement 1)**.

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure children and families can access a service that meets their needs, the childminder should develop more structured ways children and parents could give their feedback and views on the service. This will help identify any areas for improvement that will improve outcomes for children and families.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having a robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

How good is our staff team?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good where several strengths impacted positively on children's outcomes and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Quality Indicator 4.1 - Staff knowledge and skills

The childminder was warm, kind and caring which ensured children felt valued, loved, and secure in her setting. She was nurturing in her care and had formed strong attachments with the children and their families. Parents spoke passionately about the positive relationships that had been formed with the childminder. Children confidently spoke to the childminder to tell them what they would like to do and were listened to.

The childminder placed children and their families at the heart of her work and was committed to supporting children to be happy and confident individuals. They engaged with children in a responsive, and respectful manner which supported their self-esteem and confidence. They promoted positive behaviour by role modelling kind words and friendly engagement with the children. We suggested that the policy around behaviour management be updated to reflect the practice observed.

The childminder had recently focused on reviewing best practice guidance to inform her approach. This meant that children benefitted from a childminder that continued to develop their knowledge and skills. We suggested that they continue to undertake further training relevant to the setting. This would ensure continuity of care for children (**see continued area for improvement 1**).

Children were protected from harm by a childminder who understood their responsibility in relation to safeguarding. The childminder had appropriate records and clear procedures in place and was confident in recognising and responding appropriately to any concerns.

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure children experience a service that is based on current best practice, the childminder should develop their skills and knowledge through broad training, self-directed reading and developing awareness of good practice documents.

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

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

To ensure children and families can access a service that meets their needs, the childminder should develop more structured ways children and parents could give their feedback and views on the service. This will help identify any areas for improvement that will improve outcomes for children and families.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having a robust and transparent quality assurance processes. (HSCS 4.19).

This area for improvement was made on 4 May 2022.

Action taken since then

This area for improvement was not met and will continue as an area for improvement (see section 3.1).

Previous area for improvement 2

To ensure children experience a service that is based on current best practice, the childminder should develop their skills and knowledge through broad training, self-directed reading and developing awareness of good practice documents.

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

This area for improvement was made on 4 May 2022.

Action taken since then

This area for improvement was partially met and will continue within the report (see section 4.1).

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care, play and learning?	4 - Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	4 - Good
1.3 Play and learning	4 - Good

How good is our setting?	4 - Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	4 - Good

How good is our leadership?	3 - Adequate
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	3 - Adequate

How good is our staff team?	4 - Good
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	4 - Good

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