

# Fairy Dust Kids Child Minding

LIVINGSTON

**Type of inspection:**  
Announced (short notice)

**Completed on:**  
24 September 2024

**Service provided by:**  
Claire MacGregor

**Service provider number:**  
SP2012983733

**Service no:**  
CS2012309500

## About the service

Fairy Dust Kids is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of five children at any one time up to 16 years of age:

- Of whom no more than five are under 12 years;
- Of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and;
- Of whom no more than one is under 12 months.

Numbers include the children of the childminder's family/household. Overnight care must not be provided.

The childminding service is located in the Deans area of Livingston. Children have access to a small lounge and a small dining area just off the lounge. The bathroom and kitchen are accessible from the lounge. Children can use the back garden of the property. As part of the conditions of registration, the childminder must supervise the children at all times when in the back garden.

The service is close to local schools and nurseries. Other amenities, such as shops, parks and nature areas are nearby.

## About the inspection

This was a short notice inspection which took place on Monday 23 September 2024 between 07:00 and 09:00. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

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:

- Spoke with the childminder both onsite and through telephone calls
- Observed practice and daily life
- Spoke with the one child present during inspection
- Reviewed documents.

We were unable to speak with parents using the service. There was one child present at the time of the inspection.

## Key messages

The childminder was working out with their conditions of registration by providing overnight care. This arrangement must cease immediately unless the conditions of registration are varied.

Children's needs and preferences were known well by the childminder and used to plan their care. The personal plans must reflect this information to aid the monitoring and evaluation of children's progress.

A range of daily routines and tasks were used as learning opportunities for children, such as cooking, taking care of animals and independent self-care.

Children would benefit from the childminder keeping up to date and using best practice in early learning and childcare.

## 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?	3 - Adequate
How good is our setting?	3 - Adequate
How good is our leadership?	2 - Weak
How good is our staff team?	3 - Adequate

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

## How good is our care, play and learning?

## 3 - Adequate

We evaluated this key question as adequate, where strengths only just outweighed weaknesses.

### Quality indicator 1.1: Nurturing care and support

Children were being supported and nurtured through kind and warm interactions with the childminder. Relationships had been built which offered children familiarity and continuity in their day. Genuine interest was shown about children's lives which aided conversation and the sharing of news. As a result, the childminder was able to recognise and praise children's individual achievements.

Children's needs, routines and preferences were known by the childminder and used to provide care. For example, which food and drinks they enjoyed. Independence with personal care was respected and promoted in an age appropriate way. This ensured children's privacy and dignity were protected. Regular discussions with parents allowed information to be shared, keeping the childminder up to date with needs. However, this information was not reflected in the children's personal plans. This meant that information could potentially be missed. In addition, children's developmental progress was not being monitored, resulting in them possibly not reaching their potential. The childminder must ensure children's personal planning reflects their needs and preferences, to aid consistent planning for their care. A requirement from the last inspection was not met and will remain (**see requirement 1 in the section 'what the service has done to meet any requirements made at or since the last inspection'**).

Daily routines such as eating and resting should be improved to maximise the benefit to children's health and wellbeing. While healthy meals and snacks were provided, the eating experience should be enhanced. For example, breakfast was eaten on the child's lap which meant their body was not upright while eating. Similarly, the child was resting on a folding camp bed, which did not effectively support their body. The childminder should further consider children's comfort in daily routines to enhance their health and wellbeing.

### Quality indicator 1.3: Play and learning

During inspection, the child in attendance had fun in their play and learning through a variety of opportunities appropriate to their stage of development. For example, learning about pets and how to take care of them. Daily routines and tasks also provided learning opportunities. For example, making their own breakfast brought independence and self-care skills. These skills for the future should continue to be developed with the child's involvement in planning. For example, baking or following a recipe by themselves.

Children had the choice when to play outdoors. They often chose to go for a walk and discover their local area. A secure garden was available to play in, providing space for balls games. Planting, growing and harvesting opportunities were informative for children and supported them to consider where their food came from.

Children's interests were used to provide play and learning experiences. The childminder respected their need to have social contact with friends online, while monitoring the safety of this. Board games were used to engage children in social and strategy skills, as well as fun and challenge. The childminder told us that they also learn from children, such as online games. This was empowering for children and allowed them to be the expert.

New opportunities were recently introduced which prompted new interests. For example, marbles, outdoor boules and fidget toys. These new resources resulted in the child choosing less screen time and mastering skills instead. The childminder should continue to develop resources and opportunities for children. This would enable them to have free choice to play by themselves or with others. For example, a selection of books and toys to use as they wish. An area for improvement from the last inspection has not been fully met and will remain (**see area for improvement 1 in the section 'what the service has done to meet any areas for improvements made at or since the last inspection'**).

## How good is our setting?

### 3 - Adequate

We evaluated this key question as adequate, where strengths only just outweighed weaknesses.

#### Quality indicator 2.2: Children experience high quality facilities

Overall, children were cared for in a home from home environment. It was comfortable, warm and well ventilated. The space was small but generally organised so children could move around. Children were confident in the space and were familiar with where resources for their use were stored.

Children generally had a safe environment as the childminder was aware of risks and took steps to minimise these. The environment was well-maintained and appropriate measures were taken, such as the use of car seatbelts.

Some infection prevention and control measures were in place to reduce the risk of infection spread. For example, the space was visibly clean, children used their own towels and bedding from individual rest areas were washed weekly. However, improvements were needed to enhance infection prevention and control. For example, effective handwashing after touching pets and before handling and eating food. An area for improvement from the last inspection was not yet fully met and will remain (**see area for improvement 2 in the section 'what the service has done to meet any areas for improvements made at or since the last inspection'**).

Children had limited resources to choose from which would support and develop their play and learning. Available resources mostly relied on interaction with the childminder. For example, board games. As a result, children were unable to play by themselves and follow their own imagination. Resources to stimulate interest and curiosity should be enhanced to improve children's play experiences (**see area for improvement 1 in key question 1 'How good is our care, play and learning?'**).

## How good is our leadership?

### 2 - Weak

We made an evaluation of weak for this key question. Whilst we identified some strengths, these were compromised by significant weaknesses.

#### Quality indicator 3.1: Quality assurance and improvement are led well

The childminder was committed to keeping children safe and well. However, in order to do this fully, the childminder must adhere to their legal conditions of registration. For example, the childminder was providing overnight care at the request of a parent. This was not authorised under the current registration conditions of the service. The childminder must cease this arrangement unless the registration conditions are varied (**see requirement 1**). The childminder should use the document, 'Registering and running a

childminding service' (Care Inspectorate 2024) to familiarise themselves with what is expected from a registered childminding service. The childminder should also refer to the document, 'Records childminding services must keep and guidance on notification reporting' (Care Inspectorate 2012, amended March 2020) to ensure they notify us of significant events within timescales.

As a result of limited practice reflection or use of best practice documents in early learning and childcare, no improvement planning was happening. The childminder's resistance to change was impacting on children's care and experiences. For example, a requirement and areas for improvement to improve outcomes for children were not met from the last inspection. We advised the childminder to use the Care Inspectorate's improvement website The Hub and Scottish Childminding Association for ideas and guidance in providing a quality service. The childminder should improve aspects of the service to further meet children's needs (**see area for improvement 1 in key question 4 'How good is our staffing?'**).

## Requirements

1. By 01 November 2024, the childminder must ensure children's health, welfare and safety needs are fully met by adhering to the conditions of the service registration.

To do this, the childminder must cease to provide overnight care until the conditions of registration better reflect the needs of the service.

This is to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) (Welfare of Users) of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

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

## How good is our staff team?

3 - Adequate

We evaluated this key question as adequate, where strengths only just outweighed weaknesses.

### Quality indicator 4.1: Staff skills, knowledge and values

Strong relationships supported children's wellbeing. Warm and kind interactions enabled children to feel valued and loved. The childminder recognised the importance of responsive attachments and took the time to build connections with children through talking and playing together. As a result, children felt listened to and respected.

The childminder was working mostly in isolation. This meant limited opportunities to discuss the service, reflect on practice and learn from others. It also meant informal support was lacking to aid improvements. As a result, the quality of service was not improving along with the childminding sector and so children were not getting the quality of service they should.

Moving forward, the childminder should use available supports to keep up to date with new ideas and best practice in early learning and childcare. For example, engage in child protection and first aid training. This would improve outcomes for children across the service (**see area for improvement 1**).

## Areas for improvement

1. To ensure children receive a quality service which meets their needs, the childminder should keep up to date and use new information to improve. This should include but not be limited to training in the following areas:

- infection prevention and control
- child protection and safeguarding
- first aid

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

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

## Requirements

### Requirement 1

By 31 March 2023, all children must have a meaningful personal plan that enables the childminder to effectively support and promote their health and wellbeing needs.

To do this, the childminder must, at a minimum:

- a) Understand the purpose of personal plans and become familiar with Care Inspectorate guidance 'Guide for Providers on Personal Planning, Early Learning and Childcare' (Care Inspectorate, 2021)
- b) Ensure sufficient information is gathered and recorded about children, setting out their individual needs and how these will be met
- c) Ensure that personal plans are regularly reviewed with children and parents so that they are up to date and reflect children's current needs, wishes and choices.

This is to comply with Regulation 5(1)(2) (Personal Plans) of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

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).

**This requirement was made on 3 February 2023.**

## Action taken on previous requirement

The child currently using the service had personal information which was out of date. While the childminder knew the child's health needs and preferences, the personal plan should reflect this information. This would aid consistent care to be provided and allow progress to be monitored.

**This requirement has not been met and so will continue with a new timescale of 1 November 2024.**

**Not met**

## 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 enable children to have positive play experiences, the childminder should review the environment and resources. This should include, but not be limited to, reviewing the areas used by children to ensure they have enough space and improving access to materials that would support them to make independent choices in their play. Also, introducing a more varied range of toys, materials and experiences that would support the development of children's curiosity and creative skills.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'As a child, my social and physical skills, confidence, self-esteem, and creativity are developed through a balance of organised and freely chosen extended play, including using open ended and natural materials' (HSCS 1:31); and 'As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I choose, and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity' (HSCS 2.27).

**This area for improvement was made on 3 February 2023.**

#### Action taken since then

Children had limited resources to play, be creative with and explore. This meant that play was mostly reliant on interaction with the childminder, rather than children leading their own ideas.

**This area for improvement has not been met and will remain.**

#### Previous area for improvement 2

To ensure children's health and wellbeing is promoted, improvements should be made to the arrangements for infection, prevention, and control. This should include but not be limited to, ensuring all children follow good hand washing practices and ensuring nappy changing is carried out in line with good practice guidance.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'If I require intimate personal care, there is a suitable area for this, including a sink if needed'



(HSCS, 5.4); and 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice' (HSCS, 4.11).

**This area for improvement was made on 3 February 2023.**

#### Action taken since then

Children were at increased risk of infection spread as effective handwashing did not take place at relevant points.

**This area for improvement has not been met and will remain.**

#### Previous area for improvement 3

To ensure children's safety and wellbeing, the childminder should ensure pet food is stored away from the areas accessed by children.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'My environment is secure and safe' (HSCS, 5.19).

**This area for improvement was made on 3 February 2023.**

#### Action taken since then

Pet food was stored away from the spaces children accessed.

**This area for improvement has been met.**

#### Previous area for improvement 4

The childminder should improve their overall approach to self-evaluation and improvement planning to enhance the quality of the service.

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 3 February 2023.**

#### Action taken since then

This area for improvement has not been met. We have written a new area for improvement to provide specific guidance in enhancing professional development to aid improvement planning.

#### Previous area for improvement 5

To improve their professional development, the childminder should identify training or research that will help them develop their skills and knowledge to enable the development of the service. They should keep a record of professional development.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes' (HSCS 3.14).

**This area for improvement was made on 3 February 2023.**

## Action taken since then

This area for improvement has not been met. We have written a new area for improvement to provide specific guidance in enhancing professional development to aid improvement planning.

## 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).

Detailed evaluations

How good is our care, play and learning?	3 - Adequate
1.1 Nurturing care and support	3 - Adequate
1.3 Play and learning	3 - Adequate
How good is our setting?	3 - Adequate
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	3 - Adequate
How good is our leadership?	2 - Weak
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	2 - Weak
How good is our staff team?	3 - Adequate
4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values	3 - Adequate

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