

Childminding: COVID-19 Information for Parents and Carers **03 June 2020**

Why childminding?

I am a professional childminder, working from my own home to provide high-quality childcare.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, childminders had to close their settings unless they were remaining open to provide critical childcare for key workers and vulnerable children.

As other childminding settings begin to re-open from Wednesday 3 June, childminders can use their discretion to allocate available spaces to other families, in line with new guidance, and continuing to prioritise key worker families and vulnerable children.

I am operating in accordance with Scottish Government guidance and relevant infection control measures outlined in **Coronavirus (COVID-19): childminder services guidance**¹ and provide a safe, stimulating and happy environment for your child.

The guidance includes detail on the restriction on capacity, increased hygiene measures, risk assessments, small group working, physical distancing of adults and other changes to my practice that are required to limit the spread of infection.

Quality Assurance

- ✓ I am a registered childminder
- ✓ My service is registered and inspected by the Care Inspectorate. My latest inspection report is available to read on the **Care Inspectorate website**²
- ✓ I have Public Liability Insurance
- ✓ I have completed all childminding training as required
- ✓ I am a member of **Scottish Childminding Association**³

Who can use my childminding service currently?

Under current Scottish Government guidance relating to phase one of the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions, I am only permitted to support up to a maximum of four families at any one time (excluding my own family) and within the terms of my registration.

In addition, I am also operating in accordance with **Coronavirus (COVID-19): childminder services guidance**¹. It is expected that this restriction will be lifted during phase three when nurseries are allowed to re-open.

Infection Control

To minimise the risk of the spread of infection, childminders are required to rigorously follow current Scottish Government guidance on social distancing and infection control measures within childcare and educational settings, including the following. *(This list is not exhaustive)*

- Enhanced cleaning procedures
- Children should be dropped off at the door, and I will aim to introduce staggered drop-off and pick-up times to further reduce contact. Parents/carers should physical distance where possible and not enter the home
- If providing transportation, my vehicle will be wiped down daily. I will also operate physical distancing from any adults, use alcohol hand gel, and wash my hands thoroughly when I return home.

(continued overleaf)

- Children's hands will be washed when entering my setting and several times throughout the day. Please explain this to children and continue this practice at home.
- I would ask that children avoid bringing their own toys and any other items into my service, and parents can help to explain this to children. All my toys and equipment will be regularly cleaned as part of daily routines.
- Close contact, including hugs and the picking-up of children which were routine, will be continued as this time as appropriate to ensure children feel safe and nurtured.
- Where possible, I will be using my garden and outdoor space as much as possible across the day, whilst taking the necessary precautions to protect children from the elements.
- I will risk assess my setting on an on-going basis to ensure that infection risks are minimised and are appropriate to the children in my care. My risk assessment is available on request if you require to see a full list of risks and measures in place.

Parental Responsibilities

- If you are showing any symptoms of COVID-19, or if anyone in your family you live with is displaying symptoms, you should follow the **NHS Guidance on self-isolation**⁴ and please do not bring your child to my childminding setting
- You should inform me as soon as possible if anyone in your household is displaying symptoms
- Ensure you are adhering to physical distancing measures at all times (not just when dropping off and picking up your child(ren) but while out for exercise, shopping etc) to minimise the risk of coming into contact with the virus
- If you do not follow physical distancing measures, self-isolation measures may be requested.
- Please respect and look after your childminder by following current guidance so I can continue to support your child and other families at this time

Further information

COVID-19 Information and FAQs from SCMA is available at childminding.org/covid-19-faqs. Visit the SCMA website at childminding.org



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¹<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-childminder-services-guidance/pages/summary/>

²<https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/childminders>

³<https://www.childminding.org/>

⁴<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>