

In light of the decision from government to close all schools due to the Coronavirus, Scamps managed to remain open to take primary school age children from Frontline NHS staff & all categories of key workers. We are open from 7:30am-6:30pm from Monday to Friday on average 16 children/day.

We are part of a co-ordinated partnership with Aberdeen City Council which also means we have children from different schools from all across Aberdeen. The first couple of weeks it was difficult as we had children in our care who we already knew and they know all about our setting but at the same time we had new children from all over Aberdeen that didn't know these things. These children needed time to settle down in new surroundings and with new faces which can sometimes be a challenge for some children. We are very lucky as all the children managed to settle down, and made new friendships within the setting.



During this time we support children in online learning as well as a range of play and informal learning activities. We set up a timetable/schedule for during the day. Having a routine makes it easier for the children and staff as well. When they come in in the morning they have breakfast and a little playtime and at around 9am they start to do their school work just like at school. After lunch we do PE and play in the garden. We are very lucky with our location having a private garden that provides so much opportunities enjoying the weather and outdoor activities. Then they return to do school work until snack time and finish around 3pm. We usually spend the rest of the afternoon with games and craft activities.



One of the hardest challenges for staff is helping with their school work. Having 16 children all coming from different schools, classes and levels asking questions about their individual work can be very overwhelming going from spelling cat to how to do fractions.

We had to change our working pattern, the hours we work and the way we do the things normally. We spend more time with cleaning following the new policies and procedures specific to COVID-19. We do a deep clean every day before and after opening time, and paying a special attention to hand washing and personal hygiene. The children are really good doing their handwashing and their genuine hygiene.



Besides all the difficulties it is really good that we had the opportunity to meet with new families and share experiences. Children were able to make new friends and support each other throughout this time. All our staff member feels honoured to be able to help the families.

