

# Manda Tots Childcare Child Minding

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**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
21 September 2022

**Service provided by:**  
Amanda-Jane Noble

**Service provider number:**  
SP2018990076

**Service no:**  
CS2018369069

## About the service

Manda's Tots childminding service is provided from the childminder's home in a quiet residential area of Cumbernauld Village within North Lanarkshire. The service is registered to care for 8 children up to 16 years of age, when a childminder is working with an assistant. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The service is close to natural woodland space, local parks, shops and other local amenities.

Childminding takes place on the ground floor of the property with children having access to a large open plan living space and toilet facilities are directly beside the playroom. Children also have access to a large enclosed rear garden.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 15 September from 10:45-13:15. 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:

- Observed children play experiences.
- Observed interactions between the children and the childminder.
- Spoke with the childminder and her assistant.
- Looked around the home and garden.
- Reviewed service documents and records.
- Reviewed feedback from 7 parents.

## Key messages

- Children experience care and support that was warm, sensitive and nurturing.
- Children were at the heart of the service, with a child led approach.
- Children's health and wellbeing was promoted with daily access outdoors.
- The childminder attended training and participated in learning that helped improve the quality of children's experience.
- Effective communication with the parents meant that children's needs were supported and parents felt included in their child's care.
- The service had strong connections within the local community, enhancing play and learning experiences for all children.

## 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?	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

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

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

**5 - Very Good**

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children. Therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

### 1.1 Nurturing care and support

Children were happy and settled in the service. They were relaxed and confident around the childminders, and within the child minding environment.

The childminders were very attentive to the children's needs and interactions were warm, nurturing and respectful. It was clear the childminders knew minded children very well and they shared with us how care and development needs were being supported. The childminders knew children's personalities and routines and listened to children to ensure they felt valued and secure in their care. One parent told us the childminders were, "very attentive and responsive to the children."

Information was gathered for each child to help the childminders care for and support children. Communication with parents/carers was very effective and supported them to be fully involved in their child's care. This ensured good links between home and the childminding setting, which supported continuity of care. Parents confirmed the childminders worked very effectively with them to ensure their child's learning, development and wellbeing needs were being met. One parent told us, "It is a high standard of care, tailored for the children."

Families told us they had very good communication with the childminder, commenting she "Goes above and beyond." The childminders communicated by daily discussions and through the use of digital technology. Parents appreciated the information and photographs which the childminders shared of children's experiences, helping them to feel involved in their care. One parent told us, "Across the board, communication with Amanda is excellent. This was from the initial settling in period and throughout their time attending the setting."

Personal plans supported children's wellbeing and development and helped the childminders to meet children's needs. The childminders knew children well and confidently described their needs, preferences and stages of development. Children's experiences were recorded within learning journals and were shared with parents regularly. These recognised children's achievements and recorded their developmental progress. There was photographic evidence, which was shared with parents, of the wide range of activities that children accessed. These showed the depth and sustained nature of play which children took part in.

Children experienced a sociable lunchtime with peers that was unhurried and relaxed, the childminders sat with them to ensure their safety and enhance their social experience. Children were encouraged to be independent during mealtimes and were praised appropriately throughout. Children enjoyed eating together and often took their lunches with them on outings so that it became a part of their play experience.

Children's emotional wellbeing and security is developed through safe and sensitive sleep routines. The childminders recognised when children appeared to be tired and offered them space to sleep and rest when needed, which also reflected families wishes and children's routines. Travel cots were available in quiet spaces to ensure children could rest in comfort.

Clear policies and procedures were in place to protect children from harm. The childminders understood the role they played in keeping children safe. Both childminders had undertaken child protection training and were confident in the procedures they would follow should they have any concerns about a child.

### 1.3 Play and learning

The childminders had a good understanding of child development, which meant experiences and play were based on children's development and individual learning needs. Children were actively involved in leading their play, ensuring a true child centred approach was embedded within the service.

Children benefitted from a range of planned and spontaneous experiences that promoted their interest and developed their choice and independence. Parents told us they were "pleased with the flexibility and the variety of activities that can be provided" and that the service "provided engaging activities and outings for children on a daily basis."

We observed sensitive and supportive interactions, which were appropriate to the age and stage of development and supported children's play and learning. Children were supported to engage in a variety of play experiences that developed their skills in language, literacy and numeracy. For example, children had opportunities to participate in experiments such as tie dying.

The childminders followed the principles of the curiosity approach, which meant children had the freedom to explore a variety of natural, open ended resources within their environment. This helped the children develop their curiosity, imagination and thinking skills, whilst also enriching play and learning.

Outdoor play was a strong feature of the setting, with children participating in a range of experiential learning within their outdoor environment.

Children's play and learning was enhanced through strong connections to their local community and the wider community around them. For example, visits to the local woodland areas and allotments, these opportunities supported children to learn about the natural world around them.

## How good is our setting?

**5 - Very Good**

### 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities.

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children. Therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

A warm, welcoming and homely environment was provided for children, to take part in a wide range of play experiences. The childminder's home was relaxed and safe for children to explore and play, helping them feel secure and comfortable. One parent told us, "The children are in a clean, safe, nurturing environment. Amanda's home is very welcoming and well resourced."

The childminders had thought carefully about where furniture was placed so children could have spaces to relax, spaces to play with friends and spaces to be messy. There was a good balance between resources for older children and younger children, while also considering their individual needs and interest.

The space enabled children to make independent choices and supported their play. Children could select toys and resources from boxes and open shelves at their height. The environment gave children the message that they mattered, and their needs and interests were respected. We discussed with the childminders how this could be further enhanced to create an enabling environment, ensuring that younger children could self select too.

The childminder had made the transition to more natural open ended play resources, which promoted children's curiosity, imagination and creativity. The childminder should continue to embed this approach.

Outdoor play and learning were a priority for the service and good use was made of the garden and a wide range of parks, woodland spaces as well as visits to historic buildings. The childminders told us that children enjoyed being outdoors in all weathers, thus supporting them to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The garden was directly accessed from the playroom and offered free flow access throughout the day. This meant children could lead their own play and make choices of where they wanted to play. The outdoor space contained, areas to be together or to be alone, with a large wooden tepee providing a space for children to self regulate.

The secure garden had recently been refurbished to a very high standard, providing a wide range of learning opportunities to promote a variety of skills, curiosity and imagination, including a well resource mud kitchen, water and sand play and other sensory opportunities. One parent told us, "Manda tots is immaculate and the outdoor space in particular is wonderful. Very well maintained, safe and secure."

The childminder's home was clean and infection prevention control measures were in place. We asked the childminder to review the good practice for nappy changing facilities, for example, to ensure they are following guidance for how supplies, if being stored, should be stored.

## How good is our leadership?

## 5 - Very Good

### 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement is well led.

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children. Therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

The childminder had a clear vision for her service and was motivated to ensure continuous improvement of her service to support positive outcomes for children and families. The childminders engaged well with the inspection process and were responsive to our suggestions for development.

Both childminders understood the importance of working in partnership with parents to ensure positive outcomes for children they cared for. Daily updates were sent to families, including pictures of activities they had engaged in, videos of key moments, observations of the day and achievements within their learning and development.

Parents and children were actively encouraged to contribute to the service by sharing their ideas. Parents told us they were listened to and their suggestions were valued which meant that families felt included within the service.

Parents shared with us, "Amanda is consistently proactive, seeking view of us as parents and the children themselves" and "Amanda ensures that her service is at the highest standard by allowing us the opportunity to email our feedback making sure that we are happy and that there are no areas in which she could improve."

The service was centred around listening to children and taking their lead, valuing their thoughts and feelings. The childminder had developed a floorbook for recording children's suggestions, along with regularly consulting with children about their likes/dislikes and anything they would like to change within the setting.

The childminder had an improvement plan, where she had identified areas to improve the service. This should be further developed to enable the childminder to clearly evidence her progress and development. The childminder was aware of "A quality framework for day-care of children, childminding and school aged children." We discussed how the childminder should continue to further embed this document within her evaluation process.

Both childminders were reflective in their practice and used good practice documents to support this process. For example, a loose parts toolkit had been used to develop loose part play and in using materials that otherwise may have been discarded. Both childminders had engaged in a range of training, which was recorded within their profiles. We have suggested that the childminders should now record post training evaluations to include a reflection of learning. Reflections of learning would enabled the childminders to revisit and reflect on how learning opportunities has supported them to develop their practice, support children's wellbeing or further enhance children's outcomes.

## How good is our staff team?

**5 - Very Good**

### 4.3 Staff deployment

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children. Therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

Both the childminder and the assistant worked well together to support positive outcomes for children and families. This included providing a warm, nurturing and welcoming environment for children. Parents spoke warmly of them both and the positive experiences their children have within the service. One parent told us, "Amanda and her assistants invest a lot of time in each child and it shows as my child has a great relationship with them."

The assistant was new to the service and suitable arrangements had been made to ensure parents were fully informed and included within the changes to staff within the setting.

Both childminders knew the children well. During the inspection we observed how they adjusted their roles to meet the needs of the children. Effective communication skills were used between the childminder and the assistant to ensure smooth transitions throughout the day whilst also ensuring children's needs were being met. For example, both childminders sat alongside children while they were eating, supporting children's lunchtime experience, independence and safe eating.

There was a positive ethos within the service. Both the childminder and the assistant have skills and knowledge that supported children and their families and helped to ensure children received positive experiences. The childminders worked well together and shared roles effectively. They ensured there was always appropriate supervision in place.

Daily tasks were carried out with minimal impact on children's experiences and interactions with children remained a priority. This contributed to creating a positive environment for children to play and learn.

Both childminders were very committed to enhancing their professional skills and knowledge. They both have participated in child protection training, food safety and paediatric first aid. This helps ensure children are kept safe. Further training has been identified for the childminder's assistant as part of her induction training.

## 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?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good

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