

Beckett, Sandra Child Minding

Carnoustie

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
21 October 2025

Service provided by:
Sandra Beckett

Service provider number:
SP2003901197

Service no:
CS2003002706

About the service

Sandra Beckett provides a childminding service from their home in Carnoustie. The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16 years, of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

The service is based in an area in Carnoustie close to local parks, schools, and other amenities. Children had their own dedicated space within the home, they had access to the kitchen, downstairs toilet, and an enclosed garden to the rear of the property.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 21 October 2025 between 14:00 and 16:30. This 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 and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year. To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke/spent time with one young person using the service
- received one completed questionnaire from families using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- assessed core assurances, including the physical environment
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

As part of our inspections, we assess core assurances. Core assurances are checks we make to ensure children are safe, the physical environment is well maintained and that a service is operating legally. At the time of this inspection, no improvements were identified relating to core assurances.

During this inspection we gathered specific information to help us understand more about how services support children's safety, wellbeing and engagement in their play and learning. This included reviewing the following aspects:

- staff deployment
- safety of the physical environment, indoors and outdoors
- the quality of personal plans and how well children's needs are being met
- children's engagement with the experiences provided in their setting.

This information will be anonymised and analysed to help inform our future work with services.

Key messages

- Kind and nurturing interactions were shared which enhanced the child's wellbeing.
- A warm and welcoming home ensured the child felt loved and respected.
- Children's experiences were reflective of their interests which enabled them to lead their play.
- Informal quality assurance processes were beginning to support the childminder to identify their strengths and areas for improvement.
- Families views were valued which demonstrated that positive relationships had been established.
- Professional learning opportunities were beginning to develop the childminder's knowledge of best practice and guidance.

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

Leadership	4 - Good
Children play and learn	4 - Good
Children are supported to achieve	4 - Good

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

Leadership 4 - Good

Leadership and management of staff and resources

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where there were important strengths within the setting's work and some aspects which could benefit from improvement.

A warm and happy ethos was evident within the childminder's home, which created a positive atmosphere for children. This was reflective of the childminders' aims and objectives which stated, 'my main aim is to have happy children and parents'. We suggested that the childminder revisit their aims and objectives in consultation with children and families, as part of these were now outdated. This would enable the childminder to develop a vision that was meaningful to their current service. This would ensure that their aims and objectives were inclusive of their children and families' values and views.

Best practice guidance was reviewed to support the childminder to gather effective feedback from families. This enabled the childminder to reflect on what mattered to them to ensure they provided quality experiences for children. The feedback highlighted that parents were very happy with the service provided and felt 'warmly welcomed'. One parent commented, 'We have got to know and built a good relationship with our childminder over the years'. As a result, families views were respected and valued as they felt listened to.

Informal quality assurance processes were beginning to support the childminder to identify their strengths and areas for improvement. For example, they had begun to review their policies to ensure they were effective in supporting the running of their service. The childminder shared that they would continue to review policies in line with guidance and best practice and we would support this. We suggested methods the childminder could consider to record their identified improvements. This would ensure sustained improvements were embedded and supported positive outcomes for children and their families.

Staff skills, knowledge, values and deployment

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where there were important strengths within the setting's work and some aspects which could benefit from improvement.

Strong, loving relationships had been formed between the child and childminder. The childminder knew the child very well as they had cared for them for a number of years. They spoke confidently about their likes, dislikes and personality. The child commented, 'She listens to me and she is kind'. Their knowledge of the child supported them to promote the child's confidence which demonstrated that they felt safe and secure.

Professional learning and development was beginning to impact the childminder's knowledge and skills. The childminder had participated in first aid training and reflected on the impact within their practice. Their knowledge of the child in their care meant that they were confident in safeguarding their wellbeing and procedures, should a concern arise. We signposted the childminder to the best practice guidance, 'National child protection in Scotland (updated 2023)' to maintain their knowledge and skills, whilst they seek further training. Best practice guidance was beginning to impact the childminder's knowledge and understanding and we suggested they continued to review this. We signposted the childminder to, 'A quality framework for the early learning and childcare sectors: childminding' to support their practice. This would promote positive outcomes for children and their families.

Effective communication between the childminder and the child's family helped to maintain their safety. For example, permissions were in place to support the child's independence as they walked between school and the childminder's home. The childminder told us that regular and consistent contact with the family ensured that they were aware of the child's activities. This supported the childminder to effectively manage transitions for the child between school and their home. We suggested that this could be further developed to ensure the child's safety was always maintained when transitioning between spaces. For example, agreeing the route the child would walk. This would enable the childminder and family to further maintain the child's wellbeing.

Children play and learn 4 - Good

Play learning and developing

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where there were important strengths within the setting's work and some aspects which could benefit from improvement.

Children were able to lead their play and learning as they were given ownership over their chosen activities. The childminder actively consulted children about their likes and used this information to provide enjoyable activities. The child told us, 'I like drawing. I like baking cookies too'. As a result, children were happy and their ideas were respected.

Experiences successfully enriched children's play as the childminder used their knowledge of child development to promote and challenge their skills. For example, when completing Hama bead creations, the childminder encouraged the child to use tweezers when selecting their coloured beads. This enabled the child to develop their fine motor skills and promoted their engagement within the activity. As a result, children were given time, space and support to make decisions and engage in their play.

Informal responsive planning enabled the childminder to provide motivating experiences. For example, they told us about planning for seasonal activities, such as Halloween. We suggested that the childminder could consider involving the child in evaluating these experiences and identifying new skills to develop. This would provide opportunities for the child to recognise, achieve and celebrate their successes.

Children are supported to achieve 4 - Good

Nurturing care and support

We evaluated this quality indicator as good, where there were important strengths within the setting's work and some aspects which could benefit from improvement.

Nurturing relationships had been established between the childminder, child and their family. One parent commented, 'Our child has a positive experience with our childminder everyday and she is well looked after in a safe and secure environment'. The childminder's home was warm and welcoming and enabled the child to feel valued and loved as an extension of the family. A dedicated area within the childminder's home provided a space for the child to rest, relax and participate in their chosen activities. Resources were age and stage appropriate and reflected the interests of the child. Families privacy and dignity was maintained as they were welcomed into the childminder's home. As a result, children and their families were respected.

Personal planning supported children's wellbeing. The childminder ensured regular reviews took place to enable them to provide care that was reflective of children's wellbeing and interests. We suggested that children could be given ownership within their personal plan to contribute their likes, dislikes and skill development. This would enable the childminder and child to work together to create achievable goals and work towards celebrating successes.

Snacks provided were nutritious and aligned with best practice guidance. Positive conversations were shared as the childminder sat with the child and talked about their day at school. Effective infection prevention and control measures were in place, as children routinely washed their hands and surfaces were cleaned. This meant that children's wellbeing was supported.

The childminder knew the child and their family very well and ensured that the care they provided was responsive of their needs and wishes. The child told us, 'The best thing about coming to Sandra's is doing activities' and that they felt listened to. Text messages enabled the childminder to maintain regular and effective communication with families. For example, when an after school club was cancelled, parents would message and inform the childminder. As a result, children's safety was maintained and their needs 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 ensure children's information is accurate and relevant, the childminder should formally record reviews of children's personal plans, including dates and signatures. These should be kept up-to-date and reviewed in line with legislation or sooner if changes occur.

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 area for improvement was made on 3 December 2024.

Action taken since then

Personal plans were formally reviewed and signed by parents, in line with legislation. The childminder knew the child and family very well which supported them to review children's information.

This area for improvement has been met.

Previous area for improvement 2

To ensure that quality assurance processes impact positively on outcomes for children, they should be developed to help identify and inform improvement planning. This should include, but not limited to:

- a) Developing self evaluation and improvement processes that can be revisited and reflected on.
- b) Reviewing and updating policies to ensure they reflect and follow best practice and guidance.

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 robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

This area for improvement was made on 3 December 2024.

Action taken since then

Policies had mostly been updated and we asked the childminder to keep these under review and in line with current guidance and legislation. The childminder spoke confidently about recent improvements and had a pride in their achievements.

This area for improvement has been met.

Previous area for improvement 3

The childminder should access mandatory training and current best practice guidance, to develop their professional skills and knowledge and to promote the improvement of the service.

This should include, but not limited to:

- child protection training
- first aid training
- reviewing best practice documentation, including the Care Inspectorate document 'A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare'
- accessing the bitesize videos on the Care Inspectorate HUB
- evaluating and recording the impact of training on their practice, 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 have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice, and follow their professional organisational codes' (HSCS 3.14).

This area for improvement was made on 8 June 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder had completed first aid training. They had considered the impact of their training and gathered resources for continued support. They were able to discuss safeguarding measures and knew the child in their care very well. Best practice documentation had been used to develop recent questionnaires for families.

This area for improvement has been met.

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

Leadership	4 - Good
Leadership and management of staff and resources	4 - Good
Staff skills, knowledge, values and deployment	4 - Good
Children play and learn	4 - Good
Playing, learning and developing	4 - Good
Children are supported to achieve	4 - Good
Nurturing care and support	4 - Good
Safeguarding and child protection	6 - Excellent

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