

Mandy Lamont's Childminding Child Minding

Leven

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
11 November 2025

Service provided by:
Mandy Lamont

Service provider number:
SP2013984797

Service no:
CS2013316717

About the service

Mandy Lamont operates a childminding service from their family home in Methil, Fife. The service is registered to provide care to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 12, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom, no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the childminder's family. Other conditions which are unique to the service are, that overnight care may not be provided, that minded children cannot be cared for by persons other than those named on the certificate, and children must be supervised at all times when out in the garden. Children have access to the living room and toilet facilities.

The service is close to local amenities including green spaces, community garden, parks and local schools and nurseries.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Monday 10 November 2025 between 09:00 and 11:00. Feedback was given following the inspection. 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:

- spent time with two children using the service
- received feedback from four families
- spoke with the childminder
- assessed core assurances, including the physical environment
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents

Key messages

- Positive relationships had been made between the childminder, children and families.
- Children were settled, happy and having fun
- The childminder read children's cues, offered cuddles and reassurance, supporting their emotional wellbeing
- The childminder demonstrated some commitment to professional learning and development.
- Policies should be reviewed to ensure they fully reflect the service and best practice guidance
- Risk assessments should be further developed
- The childminder should engage in self-evaluation using current best practice guidance to support change.

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	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children thrive and develop in quality spaces	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children play and learn	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children are supported to achieve	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

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

Leadership 3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

We evaluated this quality indicator as satisfactory/adequate where strengths just outweighed the weaknesses.

Quality indicator: Leadership and management of staff and resources

The childminder had begun to use questionnaires with families. This was at the early stage and not yet having an impact on improvement planning. The childminder was not aware of guidance to support them to evaluate the service. We signposted them to 'A quality framework for early learning and childcare sectors: childminding (Care Inspectorate, 2025.) This could support them to recognise strengths and identify areas for change (see area for improvement 1.)

The vision, values, and aims for the service were for children to be happy, feel safe and loved. We encouraged the childminder to review their aims and include children and families in the process. This would ensure they remain relevant, meaningful and reflect the service.

Policies for the service were in place and there was some evidence these had been reviewed. We found that they needed further development to ensure they reflected the service, were aligned with conditions of registration and best practice. This area for improvement has been restated and can be viewed under the section 'What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection'.

We evaluated this quality indicator as satisfactory/adequate where strengths just outweighed the weaknesses.

Quality indicator: Staff skills, knowledge, values and deployment

The childminder had begun to engage in learning through online training. They had recently registered with the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) to ensure they received regular updates, had access to training and a community of support. We encouraged them to continue to build on knowledge and develop their confidence and understanding of best practice.

Children were safely supervised by the childminder as they played indoors. The childminder spent time close to children as they played and when resting. As a result, children felt safe and had a familiar adult near.

Areas for improvement

1. To promote high quality care and learning, the childminder should engage with best practice guidance that supports them to evaluate what is going well and identify areas for improvement.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes.' (HSCS 4.19)

Children thrive and develop in quality spaces**3 - Satisfactory / Adequate**

We evaluated this quality indicator as satisfactory/adequate where strengths just outweighed the weaknesses.

Quality indicator: Children thrive and develop in quality spaces

Children had access to indoor spaces and a range of age appropriate resources. The back garden was not in use due to safety concerns. The childminder promoted outdoor experiences through attending community groups, visits to the park, trips on the bus and other outings.

Risk assessments were basic and required further development to ensure all potential hazards were identified and steps taken to minimise these. For example, personal care products in the bathroom could be accessed by children when using the bathroom independently. The childminder should take steps to reduce risk (see area for improvement 1.)

Children's information was stored in files and some information online. We encouraged the childminder to register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to ensure compliance with data protection legislation (see area for improvement 2.)

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure children are safe, the childminder should take steps to reduce potential risks around the home. This should include, but is not limited to the bathroom when children access areas independently.

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

2. To ensure children and families information is stored securely and in line with guidance, the childminder should register with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).

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

Children play and learn**3 - Satisfactory / Adequate**

We evaluated this quality indicator as satisfactory/adequate where strengths just outweighed the weaknesses.

Quality indicator: Play, learning and developing

Children were engaged and happy. They had access to some age appropriate toys that supported their interests. We encouraged the childminder to look at ways for children to make more independent choice by organising the resources.

Interactions were warm, nurturing as children had formed positive attachments with the childminder. They sought cuddles and reassurance and this was given in a calm, nurturing and warm manner.

Planning for experiences were informal. We encouraged the childminder to look at ways older children could be more involved in planning activities to ensure their needs and wishes are met. Younger children attended several groups in the week that included toddlers, sensory groups, music and rhyme. This supported language, and literacy development. Families told us "[the childminder] is very friendly. She always has the children out at groups."

Children are supported to achieve

3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

We evaluated this quality indicator as satisfactory/adequate where strengths just outweighed the weaknesses.

Quality indicator: Nurturing care and support

Children experienced nurturing care and support from the childminder who responded sensitively to their needs. Families told us "[The childminder] is brilliant with my [child]. She is caring and knows my child's likes and dislikes" and "[The childminder] is very accommodating and great with all the children". This meant families had developed trust and confidence in the childminder.

Children felt safe and secure as the childminder was able to read their cues, stayed close and offered cuddles. As a result, children's emotional needs were met, supporting them to feel happy and settled.

Children had access to their water bottles that promoted regular hydration. Mealtimes were not observed during the visit. The childminder shared children have lunch out most days as they attend groups and outings. We encouraged them to review the mealtime routine, to include appropriate seating when eating in the home. We signposted them to best practice guidance, Setting the table, (Scottish Government, 2024) to ensure food choices are balanced and nutritious(see area for improvement 1.)

Personal plans were in place and contained most relevant information. These could be further developed to include how the service is supporting children's individual learning and development. Older children should be included in reviewing their plans and agreeing their individual next steps. This could inform planning to meet their needs, wishes and preferences.

The childminder had developed positive connections with families . They used an online messenger system to share children's learning, routines and updates. Families also used this to keep the childminder informed. Families said "Mandy has great communication" and "always updates me". As a result, connections with families were positive.

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure children's health and wellbeing is carefully considered, the childminder should review the mealtime routine and food choices offered to children to reflect best practice guidance. This should include, but not limited to, providing appropriate resources to support them to be safe whilst eating in the home and reviewing menu choices.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'I can choose suitably presented and healthy meals and snacks, including fresh fruit and vegetables, and participate in menu planning.(HSCS 1.33)

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: '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 areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

The childminder should ensure that a system is in place for the daily checks of spaces children access and record actions taken to maintain safe spaces and resources to ensure children's safety. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that as a child, "My environment is secure and safe." (HSCS 5.19) This area for improvement was made on 18 May 2023 and has been restated.

This area for improvement was made on 18 May 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder had begun to implement a system to record daily checks of spaces. They planned to continue to develop this to ensure spaces and resources are monitored safely. We encouraged them to continue this practice. Progress had been made and this area for improvement had been met.

Previous area for improvement 2

The childminder should update policies and procedures to reflect the practice and provision of the service.

This is to ensure children's safety, wellbeing and protection is consistent with The Health & Social Care Standards which state that 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 18 May 2023 and has been restated.

This area for improvement was made on 18 May 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder had made some changes to policies and procedures but these still needed careful review and amendments to reflect current best practice and conditions of registration. This area for improvement has been restated under 'Leadership' and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Previous area for improvement 3

To ensure children benefit from a service that develops through evaluation, the childminder should consider ways to encourage feedback about the quality of the service from families. They should use the feedback to support improvements. This is to ensure confidence in the people who support and care for me and is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards 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 24 May 2024.

Action taken since then

The childminder had encouraged families to give feedback about the service through questionnaires. We encouraged them to continue to connect with children and families to gather their views to support change. We recognised improvements had been made and this area for improvement had been met.

Previous area for improvement 4

To protect children from harm, support children's wellbeing, and keep children safe, the childminder should access suitable child protection training. This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I am protected from harm, neglect, abuse, bullying and exploitation by people who have a clear understanding of their responsibilities' (HSCS 3.20). This area for improvement was made on 18 May 2023 and has been restated.

This area for improvement was made on 18 May 2023.

Action taken since then

The childminder demonstrated some commitment to professional learning and deepening their knowledge and understanding on how to keep children safe. We encouraged them to continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of current practice and theories. Progress had been made and this area for improvement had been met. The childminder had encouraged families to give feedback about the service through questionnaires. We encouraged them to continue to connect with children and families to gather their views to support change. We recognised improvements had been made and this area for improvement had 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	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Leadership and management of staff and resources	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Staff skills, knowledge, values and deployment	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children thrive and develop in quality spaces	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children experience high quality spaces	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children play and learn	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Playing, learning and developing	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Children are supported to achieve	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Nurturing care and support	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate

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