

# Sandi's Little Mon-stars Child Minding

Carluke

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
11 November 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Sandra Barr

**Service provider number:**  
SP2014986031

**Service no:**  
CS2014327244

## About the service

Sandi's Little Mon-stars childminding provides a care service from their property in the area of Carluke, South Lanarkshire. The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom a maximum of 6 are under 12, of whom no more than 3 are not yet attending primary school, and of whom no more than one is under 12 months.

Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family. At the time of our inspection, eight children were registered at the service who attended on different days.

The children are cared for on the ground floor of the property. Children had access to a toy room, dining room, kitchen, toilet and outdoor area. The property is well situated access local schools, parks and shops.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 11 November 2025 between 12:50 and 14:40. 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 registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the service was registered.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spent time with three children using the service and received feedback from five of their family members
- spoke with the childminder
- 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, improvements were identified relating to core assurances. We have reported where improvement is necessary within Leadership.

## Key messages

- Children experienced warm, respectful care in a nurturing, home-from-home environment.
- Children were happy, relaxed and enjoyed spending time in the care of the childminder.
- 'Families' views were valued, showing positive relationships had been established.
- Personal plans should be reviewed regularly with families to include updates that support children's wellbeing.
- Safe guarding checks must be undertaken in line with registration guidance to ensure children's safety.

## 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 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 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 values and aims in place that promoted a safe, welcoming environment that valued children as individuals. For example, ensuring children felt secure within their environment and responding to individual needs. Parents told us "I know [child] in safe hands" and "during potty training [childminder] was a great assistance and listened to what we were wanting to happen with it."

The childminder had developed a yearly self-assessment tool which included evidence of impact for children and areas for development. For example, the childminder discussed how children showed they feel secure, by separating from parents confidently, as well as identifying their own training needs. To support and strengthen self-assessment we made suggestions that could help evidence continuous improvement. The childminder agreed.

Text message and daily chats at drop off and pick up supported communication. Updates included daily activities and children's wellbeing. One parent told us "[the childminder] updates via WhatsApp throughout the day I especially like this when working". Partnership working gave families a voice and reassured them about their child's care.

The childminder had completed a variety of training, including translating policy into practice, Think STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), reflective practice and child development for ages five to eight years. This supported the childminder's skills and knowledge.

The appropriate safeguarding checks for an adult household member had not been completed. We discussed this with the childminder and made a requirement in line with legislation to support the safety and wellbeing of children (see requirement 1).

### Requirements

1.  
By 27 January 2026 in order to ensure children experience a service which is well led and managed and to keep them safe, you must ensure that any person living at the premises which are used for the provision of the care service is fit to be in the proximity of children. To achieve this, you must:

- submit the relevant notifications for any member of your household who is over the age of 16
- fully complete a Disclosure Scotland Level 2 Disclosure with barred list check for any person living in the premises used for the provision of the care service who is 16 years of age or older and who has not already been assessed as fit by the Care Inspectorate, together with all relevant fees.

This is in order to comply with Regulation This is to comply with Regulations 4(1)(a), 12(1) and 12(2a) of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

**Children play and learn 4 - Good**

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.

**Quality Indicator; Playing, learning and developing**

The childminder had a wide range of age and stage appropriate toys and resources. These included trains, building bricks, arts and crafts, digital toys, jigsaws and board games.

Children were able to independently access resources from boxes, which promoted choice. These resources were organised by age and stage of development, ensuring children accessed materials appropriate for their developmental needs.

Children showed happiness through smiles and laughter as the childminder sang and interacted with them. This positive engagement supported children's emotional wellbeing and strengthened their sense of security and enjoyment in the service.

Older children had opportunity to share ideas about new resources, snacks and activities. Responding to children's interests and wishes helped them feel included and respected. We suggested extending opportunities for younger children to share their views. This would strengthen participation ensuring all children's preferences were considered.

Children accessed the garden regularly and took part in planting and growing activities, which supported their understanding of nature. The childminder told us one child referred to the area as [childminders] biodiverse garden, showing pride and ownership. Children also benefited from outings to local parks and shops, where they collected acorns and leaves. These experiences encouraged curiosity and opened discussions about the natural environment, promoting learning beyond the home. Children told us "Got to watch a sunflower grow" and "go to the park".

**Children are supported to achieve 4 - Good**

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.

**Quality Indicator: Nurturing care and support**

The childminder's warm, caring and responsive interactions supported children to feel safe and secure. For example, when a child awoke from sleep, the childminder greeted them gently, offering comfort and cuddles until the child was fully awake. This supported children's overall wellbeing.

Lunchtime was a relaxed and positive experience. Families provided meals from home and the childminder had awareness of individual dietary requirements. Children had access to their own water bottles throughout the day, which promoted healthy hydration habits.

Personal plans were in place, helping to ensure children's needs and interests were recorded when they started the service. However, while the childminder knew the children well and shared information with families regularly, the personal plans had not been updated or reviewed with families to reflect changes in routines and wellbeing. We discussed this with the childminder and signposted to best practice guidance.

The childminder discussed how they promoted children's individual needs through ongoing discussions with families. However, during the visit, children slept in prams. We discussed the importance of ensuring sleep practices align with current guidance and signposted the childminder to best practice.

Whilst no children currently required medication, we were satisfied that systems were in place to help support the safe administration of medicines if required.

## 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

Leadership	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
Leadership and management of staff and resources	3 - Satisfactory / Adequate
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

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