

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator
Inspection report date
Previous inspection date

Claire Ward
 3rd April 2025
 26th January 2024

The quality and standards of the childminder's care and early education	This inspection Previous inspection	Outstanding Good
Organisation, welfare and leadership		Outstanding
Teaching, learning and development		Outstanding
The promotion of children's well-being		Outstanding
Early Years Foundation Stage requirements including safeguarding and child protection.		Effective

What is it like to attend Claire's early years setting?

This childminder early educator is Outstanding.

Children thrive in Claire's home setting. Claire and her assistant have built positive relationships, taking time to get to know each child individually. This helps children feel confident and comfortable in the setting. They listen to and follow clear instructions given by Claire and her assistant, which supports them in learning daily routines. Upon arrival, children put their shoes away, hang up their coats, and move their picture and name to register their attendance. These routine fosters independence and gives children a sense of security.

The learning environment is designed to suit the age and stage of development of the children. Each room includes a reading area, home corner, and feelings area, where children can reflect on their emotions and learn to express how they feel. The play space is thoughtfully set up to ignite curiosity and encourage exploration, promoting independent play.

A focus activity was planned to develop children's early phonetic skills. The children enjoyed exploring musical instruments and listening to the different sounds they produced. They creatively found ways to make similar sounds using their bodies, experimenting with loud and quiet tones. They also learned about instruments from around the world, such as an African hand drum. The children used their fine motor skills to play the drum and worked together as a group, listening to each other's sounds and waiting for their turn. This activity supported their personal, social, and emotional development.

What does Claire do well?

- **Exciting Learning Opportunities**
Claire plans engaging activities that cover all seven areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which positively impacts children's development. For example, children recently planted seeds as part of their Mother's Day gifts. Claire had an engaging conversation with the children about what plants need to grow into beautiful flowers.
- **Strong Parent Partnerships**
Claire provides detailed information about each child's day through daily diaries and observation books. Parents are well-informed and actively involved in their child's learning. Claire and her assistant work closely with parents to support children's individual needs. Each child has a learning journal containing termly reports, two-year progress checks, and next steps.
- **Healthy Mealtimes**
Claire designs nutritious meals and snacks for the children. They wash their hands before eating, learning about good hygiene practices. Each child has a personalised placemat with their name, making mealtime a special and social experience.

- **Outdoor Learning**

Children have plenty of opportunities for outdoor play. The garden is well-equipped with resources that support physical development, including ride-on vehicles, an obstacle course with tyres and ramps, and a water tray.

- **Community Engagement**

The children are actively involved in their local community, attending library groups, park visits, farm trips, and nature walks. They also meet local workers, such as bus drivers and shopkeepers, and are taught road safety during outings.

- **Supportive Assistant**

Claire's assistant has a strong understanding of safeguarding and child development. He has formed excellent relationships with the children, which positively impacts their learning and emotional well-being.

To maintain outstanding practice Claire should:

- Continue to **support and develop** the practice of her assistants.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Claire and her assistant have a secure understanding of the safeguarding referral process. They recognise the signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is at risk of harm. Claire speaks confidently about wider safeguarding issues.

The setting is safe and secure. Claire carries out risk assessments before leaving the premises to minimize risks when visiting places in the community.

More Information about this Childminder Early Educator

Regulatory body	@Home Childcare Childminder Agency CA000017
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Childminder's unique reference number	CM000200
Inspection visit date	7 th March 2025
Local Authority	Nottinghamshire
Age range of children	0 – 11

Claire registered in 2021 and holds a Level 3 childcare qualification. She operates from 7:20 AM to 5:30 PM, five days a week, all year round. She provides funded early education for 2-, 3-, and 4-year-old children.

Claire had a quality assurance visit within the past year. As this was not a full inspection, no formal quality judgment was given, but she received verbal and written feedback.

Information about this Quality Appraisal Inspection

The visiting inspector: **Kay-Louise Ley**

As part of the visit, the inspector completed a range of activities including:

- Observing the quality of teaching during activities and assessing the impact this has on children's learning. Including conducting a joint evaluation with the educator of a planned adult led activity.
- Discussing the educator's and assistants' practice at appropriate times throughout the visit
- Reviewing the children's assessment records, observations and planning on the agency's EYFS learning journal software
- Viewing the areas of the house used for early education and reviewing a selection of policies
- Collecting the views of parents from surveys, the educator's own questionnaires and any spoken to on the day
- Discussing the educator's self-evaluation and plans for improvement

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage. If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can complain to Ofsted.

More Information about the Quality Appraisal Inspection visit

The Quality Appraisal Inspection visit was conducted by a Support, Advice and Mentor (SAM) from @Home Childcare Childminder Agency in line with A guide for Childminder Agencies⁽¹⁾. The visiting inspector reviewed all aspects of the childminder's setting to ensure they were meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework⁽²⁾. The quality of the childminder's practice was assessed using aspects of the agency's own evaluation schedule with reference to the Environment Rating Scales ⁽³⁾ and Ofsted's Inspection Evaluation Schedule. ⁽⁴⁾.

(1) *A guide for childminder agencies (October 2021) Department for Education*

(2) *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (January 2024) Department for Education*

(3) *Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (Harms, Cryer and Clifford); Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (Harms, Cryer and Clifford); ECERS –E (Curricular Extension) (Sylva, Siraj-Blatchford and Taggart); Assessing quality in early childhood education and care, Sustained Shared Thinking and Emotional Well-being Scale (Siraj, Kingston and Melhuish)*

(4) *Early Years Inspection Handbook (May 2019) Ofsted* ⁽⁴⁾.