

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator
Inspection report date
Previous inspection date

Kate Fountain
19th August 2025
7th June 2022

The quality and standards of the childminder's care and early education	This inspection	Outstanding
	Previous inspection	Outstanding
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 Kate's early years setting?

This childminder early educator is Outstanding.

Kate has built exceptionally positive relationships with the children, creating a nurturing environment where they feel safe, valued, and confident. As a result, children communicate their needs effectively and demonstrate high levels of security and independence. She skilfully promotes autonomy through well-planned activities and the use of the children's choice book, which empowers them to select resources and take ownership of their learning. This fosters engagement, motivation, and sustained concentration.

During a focused activity, children showed deep levels of curiosity and fascination as they chopped, peeled, and snapped vegetables. They developed fine motor control, expanded their vocabulary, and explored textures, shapes, and smells. Kate's sensitive interactions enriched their communication skills and extended learning, while the collaborative soup-making provided a purposeful, enjoyable experience that supported physical, creative, and language development.

Kate demonstrates a strong passion for outdoor learning, ensuring the garden is accessed daily to promote children's wellbeing and holistic development. The provision is rich and stimulating, offering role play, sensory exploration, and a wide variety of physical challenges. Children particularly enjoyed the vehicles, confidently negotiating pathways and demonstrating excellent spatial awareness. Their high levels of enjoyment and determination promoted coordination, strength, and confidence in an active and purposeful way.

Through her consistently high-quality practice, Kate ensures children are deeply engaged, make exceptional progress, and develop the confidence, independence, and skills needed for future learning.

What does the early years setting do well?

- Children are supported to develop an understanding of a wide range of cultures and celebrations. This is achieved through meaningful experiences involving food, music, and art from around the world, helping to promote respect, curiosity, and cultural awareness from an early age.
- Children benefit from regular outings within the local community, which are thoughtfully planned by Kate to extend learning beyond the setting. These include visits to feed the ducks, trips to local parks and water parks, as well as attending playgroups and soft play areas. Such experiences support children's confidence in exploring new environments and promote their social, physical, and emotional development in a variety of contexts.
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- Kate works in close partnership with parents to ensure they receive regular updates on their children's development. She effectively uses the 'Family App' to share a range of information, including daily diaries, photographs, developmental reports, and statutory two-year progress checks. This open and consistent communication helps to build strong home setting links and keeps parents actively involved in their child's learning journey.
- Kate supports children in understanding the importance of daily routines and good hygiene practices. She consistently reinforces handwashing before meals, helping children develop healthy habits and an awareness of self-care from an early age.
- Kate is committed to her ongoing professional development and attends regular training to enhance her knowledge and practice. She is a reflective practitioner, consistently evaluating her provision and seeking ways to improve the quality of her setting for the benefit of the children in her care.
- All policies and procedures are reviewed and updated regularly to ensure they remain current, effective, and in line with statutory requirements. This supports the safe and efficient running of the setting and promotes the well-being of all children.

To maintain outstanding practice the childminder educator should:

- Continue to develop confidence when talking about the next steps of the children.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Kate demonstrates a secure understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and is confident in discussing the referral process in line with safeguarding procedures. She shows clear awareness of both immediate safeguarding risks and wider safeguarding issues that may impact children's well-being. Comprehensive risk assessments are in place for the setting and all outings, reviewed regularly to ensure they effectively support the safety and welfare of all children.

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	HCEY00021
Inspection visit date	7 th July 2025
Local Authority	Nottinghamshire
Age range of children	0 – 17

The educator was registered in 2017. She has an appropriate qualification at BTEC diploma in Early Years. The educator is open from 8am to 5pm, 5 days a week. She provides funded early education for 9 months to 4-year-old children.

Kate had a quality assurance visit within the past year which is not conducted as an inspection, therefore a quality judgement was not given. The educator received verbal and written feedback, as usual.

Information about this Quality Appraisal Inspection

The visiting inspector: Jenni James

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 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 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)*

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