

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator
Inspection report date
Previous inspection date

Michelle Smith
15th June 2026
10th March 2025

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

What is it like for children to attend Michelle's early years setting?

This childminder early educator is Good.

Michelle provides care in a calm, welcoming home where children feel comfortable and confident to explore. The play space is simple but well thought out, with toys and resources that children can reach easily and choose for themselves. There is a small kitchen area with wooden food, including ice lollies, which children enjoy using in their pretend play while chatting with the childminder. A cosy reading space is set up on the floor with books within easy reach, so children can look at stories whenever they want. The space is flexible, and furniture is moved when needed to create more room or bring out new activities.

Children are supported well through warm, responsive interactions. Michelle joins in with what children are interested in and helps them build confidence by talking with them throughout their play. During playdough activities, she encourages children to choose tools, describe what they are doing, and try new ideas such as rolling, cutting and shaping. She introduces new words naturally as they play, including colours and action words, helping children learn through conversation and repetition. She also supports children's understanding of everyday expectations, gently reminding them to cover their mouths when they cough and talking with them about why this is important.

Children are happy, settled and enjoy their time with the Michelle. Children observed are confident and engaged, showing curiosity and a willingness to keep trying when things were challenging. Michelle knows the children well and understands what helps them learn best, including music, books and active play. She shares information with parents about how their children are developing and keeps them informed about progress and behaviour.

What does Michelle do well?

- Planning is responsive and flexible, with learning shaped around children's interests in the moment rather than fixed activities.
- Michelle uses purposeful interactions, with simple questioning and modelling used to extend children's thinking during play without disrupting their engagement.
- Communication and language development is consistently promoted through everyday interactions, with careful use of repetition, modelling and encouragement.
- Independence is supported through well-organised routines and accessible resources that allow children to make choices and manage aspects of their own play and learning.
- EY Log is used effectively to track development and inform next steps, including regular developmental checks.
- Michelle shares information about children's progress appropriately with parents, supporting continuity between home and the setting.

- She regularly reviews what is working well and looks for ways to make children's learning even more enjoyable and rewarding
- There is a clear commitment to ongoing professional development, including training in safeguarding and first aid.
- Policies and procedures are in place and followed in daily practice, supporting consistency and good organisation across the setting.
- Record keeping is well maintained and supports effective oversight of children's progress and care arrangements.

What Michelle needs to do to improve?

- Continue to develop activities and resources that help children learn about different people, families and communities in simple and meaningful ways.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Michelle demonstrates a clear understanding of how to keep children safe in the setting and this is reflected in daily practice.

Appropriate policies and procedures are in place and followed, and records are well maintained. Michelle has good awareness of key safeguarding processes, including when to seek advice or make referrals if needed, and understanding of wider safeguarding issues such as Prevent. Children are cared for in a safe, well-organised environment, and their welfare is prioritised through close supervision, clear routines and appropriate guidance during everyday activities.

More information about this childminder early educator

Regulatory body & the Ofsted registration number	@Home Childcare Childminder Agency CA000017
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Childminder's unique reference number	HCEY00085
Inspection visit date	19 th May 2026
Local Authority	Nottinghamshire
Age range of children	0 – 17

Michelle was registered in 2019 and lives in Nottinghamshire. She has an appropriate qualification at level 2. Michelle's opening hours are: 8am to 5pm, 4 days a week all year round. She provides funded early education for 9 months and 2, 3 and 4-year-old children.

A non-inspection quality assurance visit took place within the past year, during which no formal judgement was made. However, the educator received both 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 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⁾.

- *A guide for childminder agencies (2021) Department for Education*
- *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2025) Department for Education*
- *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)*
- *Early Years Inspection Handbook (2025) Ofsted* ⁽⁴⁾.