

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator
Inspection report date
Previous inspection date

Emma Heighton
17th March 2025
N/A

The quality and standards of the childminder's care and early education	This inspection	Good
	Previous inspection	N/A
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 to attend Emma's setting?

This childminder early educator is Good.

Emma provides good-quality care and education.

Children are happy and secure in her home setting. The learning environment is stimulating and encourages children to develop their curiosity. They have access to a wide range of toys and activities, with construction play being a popular choice. This type of activity helps to develop children's physical skills.

The focus activity was linked to this term's topic, 'Winter.' Previously, the children participated in winter walks within the local community and visited the post box to send letters they had written to Santa. These real-life learning experiences help children develop their understanding of the world around them.

In this session, the children explored their 'Winter' topic further by learning about Arctic animals. They were able to recognise a polar bear and discuss its habitat. The children put on winter hats, scarves, and gloves and embarked on a bear hunt. They then worked together as a team to construct an igloo, an activity that fostered problem-solving and teamwork skills. Throughout, they demonstrated resilience and determination, celebrating their success when the igloo was completed.

What does Emma do well?

- Emma has a good knowledge of children's learning and development. She confidently discusses their ages, stages of development, and learning styles.
- She plans exciting activities to extend children's learning. For example, children visit local shops and use the ingredients they buy to prepare meals together.
- The setting promotes emotional literacy, with a calming corner where children can read books and reflect on their feelings.
- Physical activity is highly valued, with daily yoga sessions that positively impact children's physical development.
- Emma works closely with assistants, ensuring they are well-prepared and trained to support children's needs.
- Emma strategically plans for the assistants' development, ensuring they have a secure understanding of safeguarding and EYFS requirements.
- Children have opportunities to participate in trips, such as farm visits, which enhance their personal, social, and emotional development.
- Communication with parents is facilitated via an early years software, BabyDays, where assessments and observations are regularly shared.
- Policies and procedures are in place, regularly reviewed, and updated.
- Emma is enhancing the play space to provide pre-school children with a more focused learning environment, supporting their transition to school.
- She supports children's communication and language development, identifying those who may need additional support and targeting interventions to ensure progress.

What does Emma need to do to improve?

- Continue developing children's next steps in each area of learning.
- Further refine self-reflective documents i.e. her Self-Evaluation Quality Improvement Plan

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is Effective.

Emma has strong safeguarding knowledge. She is aware of the signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is at risk of abuse. She understands the local referral procedures, including reporting allegations. Emma regularly updates her knowledge of safeguarding policies and ensures assistants are informed of any changes.

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	CM000244
Inspection visit date	24 th January 2025
Local Authority	Warwickshire
Age range of children	0 – 17

Emma was registered in 2023 and holds a Level 3 qualification. Her setting operates from 6:30 am to 9:00 pm, five days a week, year-round. She provides funded early education for 2-, 3-, and 4-year-old children.

Emma 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 –

(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⁾.