

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator
Inspection report date
Previous inspection date

Emma Johnson
25th March 2025
N/A

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

This childminder early educator is Good.

Emma shows great care, compassion, and empathy for the children in her setting. She has built strong relationships with them; when children wake from a nap, they immediately smile and give her a cuddle. Emma takes time to understand each child and family, recognising children's personalities, interests, and family needs. This helps establish a strong partnership between Emma, the children, and their parents. Parents appreciate the trust and flexibility Emma provides, often commenting on how their children have grown in confidence and continually learn new skills.

Children are making secure progress under Emma's care. She has high ambitions for them and plans challenging activities to stretch their learning. For example, when children show an interest in pouring liquids, she introduces different pouring resources to help develop their hand-eye coordination. Emma consistently offers praise and encouragement, fostering independence. Children confidently attempt to put on their own shoes, with Emma providing simple guidance to help them succeed. They have many opportunities to explore new materials. They experiment with pipettes to extract watered-down paint from a tuft tray, and their excitement is evident when they exclaim, *"I did it!"*

Emma also encourages children to be active members of the community. They attend local playgroups, where they practice social skills and making friends. They frequently explore local woodlands, observing wildlife and learning about nature. Emma teaches children about road safety, including how to cross roads safely and the importance of staying together.

Children are happy and confident in Emma's care, demonstrating independence, decision-making skills, and a willingness to share ideas for future play opportunities.

What does the early years setting do well?

- **A Warm and Inviting Play Space**
Emma has created an accessible play environment where children can choose their own toys and explore open-ended materials that encourage imaginative play.
- **Effective Behaviour Management**
Emma consistently reinforces expectations, helping children understand why certain behaviours are inappropriate and how they affect others. Children respond well and quickly adjust their behaviour.
- **Encouraging Sharing and Turn-Taking**
Children learn to share and cooperate with their peers, often doing so independently or with minimal support. For example, they willingly share playdough to ensure everyone has a chance to play.

- **Teaching Emotional Awareness**
Children learn to express their emotions and recognise how their peers are feeling, building empathy and social understanding.
- **Strong Understanding of Children's Progress**
Emma has a clear overview of each child's development and plans targeted learning experiences to support their next steps.
- **Child-Centred Learning Approach**
She takes the time to understand children's personalities, interests, and learning preferences, using this knowledge to plan engaging and meaningful activities.
- **Adapting to Children's Needs**
Emma observes children closely and introduces additional resources as needed, extending learning opportunities in real time.
- **Promoting Independence**
Independence is embedded into daily routines, with children taking increasing responsibility for their self-care and decision-making.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

- **Continue to develop self-evaluations** to consistently raise outcomes for children.
- **Strengthen partnerships with parents** to encourage more learning opportunities at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The arrangements for safeguarding are **effective**.

Emma has a strong understanding of her safeguarding roles and responsibilities. She confidently identifies a wide range of signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is at risk of harm. Emma can clearly explain the local referral process if she has concerns about a child or if an allegation arises. She regularly updates her safeguarding procedures to stay informed of local changes and ensure compliance.

Emma also prioritises children's safety within her setting. She conducts daily checks of both indoor and outdoor environments to identify and minimize risks. She is mindful of weather conditions and how they might affect outdoor play areas.

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	CM00251
Inspection visit date	11 th February 2025
Local Authority	Lincolnshire
Age range of children	0 – 17

The educator registered in 2023 and holds a Level 3 childcare qualification. She operates from 8:00 AM to 5:15 PM, three days a week, all year round. She provides funded early education for children not yet at school.

Emma 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 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 – just capitalised*

(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⁾.