

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator
Inspection report date
Previous inspection date

Caroline Westray
1st May 2025
2nd October 2023

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

This childminder early educator is Outstanding.

Children are very happy in Caroline's home-from-home setting. They treat her home as their own, freely exploring and continually telling Caroline and her children that they love them. This demonstrates how secure and valued they feel. Parents report that their children cry when it is time to leave the setting. They also comment that Caroline goes above and beyond, adapting her provision to reflect children's changing interests. When setting up a dinosaur activity, one child exclaimed, "my favourite!"

Caroline's planned activities are highly engaging, with even younger children spending around 40 minutes exploring her sensory dinosaur activity. Children explore mathematical concepts such as big and small, and older children are challenged further by fetching two more dinosaurs, testing their number knowledge. Caroline extends learning through children's own observations—for example, a straw looking like a nest led to a discussion about bird nests and eggs.

Children are active members of the community, visiting local museums and attending gymnastic classes. They experience new opportunities such as riding buses and trains, and then practise their skills outdoors, climbing on wooden beams under Caroline's supervision. Parents appreciate how Caroline embeds clear boundaries, which positively impacts children's behaviour and safety on outings.

Children's language skills and vocabulary are continually supported. Caroline provides a running commentary on children's actions, and older children are encouraged to share their thoughts, extending their sentence structure and communication skills.

What does Caroline do well?

- Caroline has carefully organised her learning environment to provide children with ample space to play and explore.
- Children thoroughly enjoy sharing information about their weekend or upcoming plans, demonstrating strong conversational skills.
- Children make secure progress, as activities are tailored to their interests and learning needs.
- Children are supported to explore the local community, including plans for visits to a residential care home.
- Outdoor experiences, such as woodland exploration, develop children's physical skills and provide regular fresh air.
- Activities are creative and unconventional (e.g. painting with branches, writing with chalk), encouraging children to experiment.
- Children independently select from a range of resources to lead their own play.
- A strong love of reading is fostered, with older children recalling and retelling favourite stories.
- Behaviour is guided positively; inappropriate behaviour is redirected with alternative play ideas.

To maintain Outstanding practice Caroline should:

- Continue to expand questioning techniques to encourage children to explain their thought processes.
- Regularly review self-evaluation documents to identify personal development goals.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Caroline has strong knowledge of safeguarding signs and symptoms and understands her local referral procedures. She updates her safeguarding knowledge through training and reviewing local guidance. Detailed risk assessments are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure children's safety both in the setting and on outings. Parents are assured safety is a top priority in this setting.

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	CM00176
Inspection visit date	25 th March 2025
Local Authority	Nottingham City
Age range of children	0 – 17

Caroline was registered in 2021 and lives in Nottingham City. She is open from 8:00 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.

Caroline had a quality assurance visit within the past year, which was not conducted as an inspection; therefore, no quality judgement was given. She received verbal and written feedback as usual.

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*

(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⁾.