

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator
Inspection report date
Previous inspection date

Michelle Smith
25th March 2025
24th January 2024

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 to attend Michelle's early years setting?

This childminder early educator is Good.

Children are confident and secure in Michelle's home-from-home setting. As a childminder educator, Michelle is passionate about encouraging children to develop a love of reading. The children enjoy regular trips to the library to explore and choose books, which supports their communication and language skills and broadens their knowledge. During the focus activity, Michelle read the story "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." The children have previously explored books in their physical form and can now identify the front cover and title of a book. They were able to retell the story in their own words and ask and answer questions about it. One child said, "I think Goldilocks is asleep because she ate too much porridge." These experiences develop the children's literacy skills.

Children have positive attitudes to learning and eagerly participate in all planned activities. For example, they used tweezers to explore magnets, which supports their exploration and fine motor skills.

The children have plenty of opportunities for outdoor learning and fresh air. For instance, they go on walks in the local community, visit the park to feed the ducks, and attend forest school groups where they build dens and climb trees. These experiences support their understanding of the world.

What does Michelle do well?

- Michelle plans an exciting curriculum across all seven areas of the EYFS, including playdough modelling and arts and crafts.
- She provides healthy snacks, such as apples, and encourages children to cut and count apple segments, learning about seeds as they go.
- The children access a wide range of experiences, including gymnastics, playgroups, and soft play, which develop their personal, social, and emotional skills.
- Children are encouraged to be independent, tidying away toys, putting on shoes and coats, and washing hands, promoting confidence.
- Road safety is taught using posters and practice, developing children's understanding of safe behaviour near roads.
- Positive behaviour strategies, such as praise and stickers, support good choices and behaviour.
- Michelle communicates with parents via EY Log, verbal feedback, and WhatsApp, sending daily diaries and photographs.
- Each child has age-appropriate next steps to support their developmental milestones.

What does Michelle needs to do to improve?

- Consistently complete termly reports to identify children's progress.
- Develop self-evaluation processes to continually raise care and education standards.
- Establish routines to ensure policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and updated.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Michelle has a secure knowledge of the safeguarding referral process and can identify signs and symptoms of potential harm. She understands wider safeguarding issues such as the Prevent Duty. The setting is safe and secure, and Michelle carries out risk assessments and checks when visiting the community to minimise risks.

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	CM000085
Inspection visit date	10 th March 2025
Local Authority	Nottinghamshire
Age range of children	0 – 17

The educator was registered in 2019. She is open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, three days a week, all year round, and provides funded early education for 2-, 3-, and 4-year-old children.

Michelle Smith had a quality assurance visit within the past year, which was not conducted as an inspection; therefore, no quality judgement was 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⁾.