

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator
Inspection report date
Previous inspection date

Paula Almeida
1st May 2025
27th November 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 Paula's early years setting?

This childminder early educator is Outstanding.

Paula is enthusiastic and full of energy when interacting with the children. This motivates and excites the children to learn. All the children are thriving and making good progress in this setting.

Paula uses the children's interests to plan exciting learning opportunities. The children were excited to start the focus activity. They sat together to talk about their feelings and were able to say how they were feeling and why. Paula modelled different feelings using her facial expressions and body language. This supports the children to understand different feelings and emotions.

The children learnt about the days of the week, the months of the year, and the weather. Paula uses songs to support the children's learning, which develops their understanding and language skills. The children enjoy circle time activities; they passed a basket around the circle and chose an object linked to a song. Their favourite was 'Baby Shark.' All the children and Paula stood up enthusiastically to sing the song and join in with the actions. The children were excited to see which song would be next. These daily circle time activities promote the children's personal, social, and emotional development.

Paula plans daily focus activities that link to the next steps of the children. These daily interactions develop the children's focus and concentration skills. Paula also plans activities that link to celebrations from around the world. The children enjoyed learning about St. Patrick's Day and produced artwork that is displayed in the setting.

What does Paula do well?

- The children go on trips in the local community. They explore the local park, transport, and shops. The children enjoy getting the tram to the Arboretum to feed the ducks.
- The children have daily outdoor play experiences. The outdoor area has a wide range of equipment to develop the children's physical skills, for example, bikes, slides, and seesaws.
- The learning environment is planned to develop children's curiosity. Each room has a role-play area to develop the children's imaginative skills, a reading area, and free-choice toys. The children enjoyed playing in the sand, using scoops to fill and empty containers.
- The children design their own 'Mummy's Care' t-shirts to wear in the setting. These t-shirts have the children's handprints on them, which helps develop a sense of belonging.
- The children's next steps are clearly displayed in the setting to ensure all staff are aware of each child's development.
- Paula uses the early years software, EYLog to send termly reports, 2-year checks, and daily diaries to the parents. This keeps parents informed and engaged in their child's development.
- Paula is reflective and is always thinking of ways to develop the setting and her practice.

To maintain outstanding practice Paula should:

- To continue to support children's thinking and problem solving through purposeful learning activities

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Paula has a secure knowledge of the safeguarding referral process. She is confident in recognising the signs and symptoms that a child may be at risk of harm. Paula is aware of wider safeguarding issues such as radicalisation. The setting where the children play is safe and secure. She carries out checks when she leaves the setting to minimise risks when visiting places in the community. Detailed risk assessments are in place, and regular fire drills are carried out.

Paula's knowledge and practice of safeguarding assures the safety and welfare of children.

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	CM00112
Inspection visit date	21 st March 2025
Local Authority	Nottingham City
Age range of children	0 – 17

Paula was registered in 2019. The educator is open from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, five days a week, all year round. She provides funded early education for 2-, 3-, and 4-year-old children.

Paula Almeida 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⁾.