

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator
Inspection report date
Previous inspection date

Gail Button
7th November 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 be a child in Gail's early years setting?

This childminder early educator is Good..

Children in Gail's care feel happy, safe, and valued. From the moment they arrive, they are welcomed into a warm and calm environment where their ideas and feelings are acknowledged. Gail takes time to build trusting relationships, helping children settle and gain confidence in new surroundings. Children feel secure and know they can seek reassurance and comfort when needed.

Children enjoy a wide range of interesting activities that follow their interests and encourage learning. Gail responds to their curiosity, introducing new ideas and asking questions such as, *"Why do you think that happened?"* or *"What could we do next?"* This helps children develop problem-solving skills and confidence in their own ideas.

There is lots of conversation and interaction throughout the day. Gail supports language and communication naturally, encouraging children to talk about what they are doing and introducing new words. While making playdough hedgehogs and cats, she joins in, comparing colours, counting, and talking about shapes, sizes, and textures. These activities support early maths and language skills in a practical, enjoyable way.

Children also benefit from outdoor play in Gail's garden, which offers opportunities to explore and be active. They dig in the mud kitchen, play with water and sand, and investigate natural materials like pinecones and logs. Gail encourages them to notice changes in nature, supporting curiosity, physical development, and imaginative play.

Overall, children in Gail's care are happy, confident, and supported. The environment is caring and nurturing, and children are encouraged to enjoy learning, explore their ideas, and develop skills across all areas.

What does Gail do well?

- Gail encourages children to think and problem-solve for themselves. When a child found it difficult to cut playdough, Gail gently asked, "Why do you think that is?" and showed how rolling it flatter would make it easier to cut. This helped the child learn through experience and feel proud of solving the problem.
- Gail uses children's curiosity to extend learning naturally. When the child wanted to feel pasta with her feet, Gail supported this safely, turning it into a sensory exploration that encouraged discussion about how things feel and sound.
- She helps children to understand and manage their feelings by using books, pictures and a 'feelings board'. This helps children recognise different emotions and learn how to express themselves in positive ways.
- Gail manages behaviour calmly and positively, using gentle reminders and distraction to support children in making the right choices. For example, when a child said "no" to sitting on a chair, Gail changed the focus to asking for help finding the black playdough, turning potential conflict into cooperation.

- Children have access to a wide range of toys and craft materials which they can independently select. This allows children to make their own decisions in play.
- Children are supported to safely develop their cutting skills by using scissors. Gail supports children to understand how to use them safely while developing their hand-eye co-ordination.
- Gail works closely with parents to help them understand their child's current stage of development. She shares important information with parents to allow them to support learning at home.

What does Gail need to do to improve?

- Strengthen her self-evaluation to identify key areas for development, therefore creating a clear plan for professional development.
- Review the way records are maintained to ensure they are consistently up to date and well organised.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Gail has a strong and up-to-date understanding of safeguarding, ensuring children in her care are always safe and well protected. She knows what to look for if a child may be at risk, including signs of neglect, physical or emotional harm, and understands the procedures to follow if she has concerns. Gail keeps accurate records of accidents, existing injuries and medication, and ensures parents are fully informed. She has attended training in safeguarding, first aid, food safety, Prevent, and FGM awareness, and regularly updates her knowledge through local authority bulletins and networking meetings.

Children are protected because Gail carefully manages risks both inside her home and on outings, and she follows clear policies and procedures to keep them safe at all times.

More information about Gail Button

Regulatory body	@Home Childcare Childminder Agency CA000017
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Childminder's unique reference number	HCEY00254
Inspection visit date	8 th October 2025
Local Authority	Oldham
Age range of children	0 – 17

The educator was registered in September 2024 and lives in Oldham. She has an appropriate qualification at level 3 and works alone. The educator is open from 8 to 6, 5 days a week all year round. She provides funded early education for 9months, 2, 3 and 4-year-old children.

Gail 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: **Suzanne Nicols**

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 (September 2025) 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⁾.