

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator
Inspection report date
Previous inspection date

Jenni James
14th November 2025
30th March 2022

The quality and standards of the childminder's care and early education	This inspection	Outstanding
	Previous inspection	Outstanding
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 be a child in Jenni's early years setting?

This childminder early educator is Outstanding.

Children thrive in Jenni's care because she provides a calm, nurturing, and inspiring environment where they feel truly safe, valued, and eager to learn. Her practice is consistently outstanding. Children are welcomed with genuine warmth, helping them settle quickly and feel a strong sense of belonging. The play spaces are exceptionally organised and thoughtfully equipped, offering endless opportunities for exploration and imagination. Indoors, children enjoy role play, stories, and creative activities that build their confidence and curiosity. Outdoors, they have access to bikes, sand play, a mud kitchen, and a well-stocked cabin that encourages active, hands-on learning. Children know the routines, enjoy helping, and confidently choose their own play, showing pride and independence in the way they move around the setting.

Jenni's teaching is consistently outstanding, offering learning experiences that spark children's curiosity and lead to deep, meaningful learning. Activities are carefully planned around children's interests, so they remain motivated and fully involved. For example, during a recent activity exploring ice filled with natural objects such as pinecones, holly, lavender, and feathers, children predicted how they might release the items, tried out different ideas, and discovered that salt speeds up melting. Jenni took the opportunity to introduce new vocabulary like "*melting*" and "*reaction*", encouraging children to describe what they could see, smell, and feel. Through this hands-on exploration, children strengthened their problem-solving skills, scientific thinking, communication, and teamwork. Every child, including those who may be shy or less confident, was supported to take part at their own level, helping them build self-belief and a genuine love of learning.

Children's personal and emotional development is exceptionally well supported. They form trusting, secure relationships with Jenni and show clear confidence in her care. Children play together with kindness, patience, and respect; taking turns, sharing ideas, and celebrating one another's achievements. Jenni encourages them to talk about their feelings and helps them recognise and manage emotions in positive, age-appropriate ways. Her calm, consistent role-modelling creates an atmosphere where every child feels listened to and valued. As a result, children show curiosity, confidence, and real pride in what they accomplish, demonstrating just how well they are supported to grow and flourish.

What does Jenni do well?

- Children's wellbeing, emotional development, and understanding of safety are exceptionally well supported; they feel secure, follow routines confidently, and learn how to stay safe in everyday situations.

- Jenni creates a setting where everyone is respected and included, helping children develop empathy, tolerance, and a positive view of the wider world.
- She skilfully supports collaborative play, encouraging children to share, listen, problem-solve, and celebrate achievements together.
- Jenni extends children's thinking through thoughtful questioning, modelling, and demonstration, helping them make predictions, reason through problems, and reflect on their learning.
- Every child is included, with Jenni adapting activities to suit individual needs, including those who are shy or need extra encouragement.
- Children are supported to be confident, independent learners who make choices, try new ideas, and take pride in their achievements, building resilience and self-motivation.
- Learning is linked to real-life experiences, helping children make sense of the world — whether discussing where natural materials come from, how plants grow, or noticing things from everyday life.
- The outdoor environment is a standout feature of Jenni's setting. It is exceptionally well resourced, giving children rich opportunities to dig, climb, balance, explore nature, and follow their interests. The outdoor cabin adds an exciting extra space that encourages movement, imagination, and choice.

To maintain outstanding practice Jenni should:

- Continue to extend collaborative learning opportunities by introducing even more complex problem-solving tasks and challenges for small groups or pairs of children.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective

Jenni has an excellent and up-to-date understanding of safeguarding, which means children are kept safe, secure, and well protected at all times. She has completed all the relevant safeguarding and Prevent training, knows the signs to look out for, and is confident about what to do if she ever has concerns about a child's welfare. Jenni keeps clear and thorough records including permissions, accidents, medication, and observations. She uses this information to make sure children are safe both indoors and outdoors. She understands how to report concerns to the right agencies and knows what steps to take if an allegation or risk ever involved herself or someone else.

Because Jenni is so vigilant, consistent, and open in her communication with parents, safeguarding is part of everything she does. Her strong knowledge and attention to detail create a setting where children can play, learn, and grow knowing they are always safe and well cared for.

More information about Jenni James

Regulatory body	@Home Childcare Childminder Agency CA000017
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Childminder's unique reference number	HCEY00068
Inspection visit date	14 th October 2025
Local Authority	Nottingham
Age range of children	0 – 17

The educator was registered in 2017 and lives in Arnold, Nottingham. She has an appropriate qualification at level 6. The educator is open from 8am – 5pm , 2 or 3 days a week term time only. She provides funded early education for 2, 3 and 4-year-old children.

Jenni had a quality assurance visit within the past year, which was 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⁾.