

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator

Inspection report date

Previous inspection date

Kirsty Latham

14th November 2025

15th March 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 be a child in Kirsty's early years setting?

This childminder early educator is Outstanding.

Children thrive in Kirsty's care. From the moment they arrive, they are warmly welcomed into a calm, inviting and well-organised environment where they feel safe, valued and ready to learn. Kirsty works alongside her assistant, ensuring each child receives individual attention and support while also having space to explore independently. The cabin is thoughtfully arranged with cosy reading spaces, role-play areas and accessible resources that spark curiosity and imagination. During playdough activities, children press and roll the dough, identify shapes and colours, and experiment by mixing two colours together, celebrating their achievements with pride and excitement.

Each day is filled with rich opportunities to learn through play. Children engage in activities that are carefully planned around their individual needs and next steps, such as counting at snack time, recognising letters during story sessions, or building structures with blocks while discussing size, balance and pattern. Kirsty skilfully extends children's thinking through conversation, encouraging them to explore, make choices, solve problems and develop confidence in their abilities.

The setting is full of warmth, laughter and a strong sense of belonging. Children learn to be kind and considerate towards others, taking turns, helping with routines and celebrating each other's successes. Diversity is celebrated through books, displays and conversations that help children understand and respect different people, families and communities. Children are proud of what they can achieve, supported by a childminder and assistant who know them exceptionally well and are deeply committed to helping them flourish in every aspect of their development.

What does Kirsty do well?

- Kirsty helps children take responsibility for their environment, supporting them to tidy up, care for toys, and work together to keep the setting organised and welcoming.
- Outdoor play is a standout strength. Children enjoy exciting, well-planned experiences — riding along the decked path, exploring different garden areas, using the swings and trampoline safely, and collecting natural treasures like acorns and conkers. These are later used for rich creative and sensory learning.
- Children's independence and self-care skills grow every day. Kirsty encourages handwashing, wiping faces, tidying up after snack, putting on shoes, managing belongings, and bringing their water bottles, helping them feel capable and proud.
- Kirsty supports children exceptionally well in recognising and managing feelings. Visual prompts and gentle conversations help them understand emotions, express themselves, and show empathy.
- Communication and language are strengthened through rich interaction. Kirsty encourages discussion during stories, singing, counting, and descriptive play, helping children build vocabulary and share their ideas confidently.

- Behaviour is managed calmly and fairly. Kirsty works closely with parents so children understand boundaries, learn patience, take turns, and show kindness, creating a respectful and harmonious atmosphere.
- Everyday routines become meaningful learning opportunities. Snack times, role play, and creative activities are used to build skills in problem-solving, maths, science, social interaction, and cooperation.
- Health, safety, and wellbeing are top priorities. Kirsty teaches children how to treat animals gently, follow good hygiene, and stay safe indoors and outdoors, allowing them to explore confidently while understanding how to keep themselves and others safe.

To maintain outstanding practice Kirsty should:

- Continue to develop the self-evaluation and improvement plan to show how ongoing reflection helps make positive changes for the children.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Kirsty takes the safety and wellbeing of children extremely seriously. Robust safeguarding procedures are in place, and she keeps up to date with training and local guidance to ensure children are always protected. Detailed records are maintained for accidents, medication, and existing injuries, and any concerns about a child's welfare are acted on promptly and appropriately. Children are closely supervised in all areas, including when interacting with pets, and are taught how to stay safe, for example by washing hands after contact with animals. Kirsty also works closely with her assistant and maintains clear communication with parents, creating a secure environment where children can explore, play and learn with confidence.

More information about Kirsty Latham

Regulatory body	@Home Childcare Childminder Agency CA000017
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Childminder's unique reference number	HCEY00188
Inspection visit date	15 th October 2025
Local Authority	Sheffield
Age range of children	0 – 17

The childminder was registered 2021 works from her home in Lowedges, Sheffield. She has a suitable childcare qualification at Level 3 and has 1 assistant. The childminder is open from 8am – 6pm, Monday to Friday. She provides funded early education for 2, 3 and 4-year-old children.

Kirsty 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⁾.