

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator
 Inspection report date
 Previous inspection date

Claire Sambrook
 19th December 2025
 NA

The quality and standards of the childminder's care and early education	This inspection	Good
	Previous inspection	NA
Organisation, welfare and leadership		Good
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 Claire's early years setting?

This childminder early educator is Good.

Claire provides a warm and engaging environment where children feel happy, confident, and secure. She follows children's lead, supporting their ideas and interests, and encourages them to explore both indoors and outdoors in all weathers, with waterproof clothing provided for outdoor play. Children take part in local forest activities and have daily access to outdoor spaces, giving them opportunities to be active, curious, and independent.

The daily routine allows children time to settle in the morning, and they confidently join in group activities once all children have arrived. They are learning to develop independence by putting on their own waterproofs, managing their own toileting, and trying new activities for themselves. Children are also learning about positive relationships and how to engage appropriately with their peers, asking for support when needed.

Claire and her assistant, Emilia, make story and learning time highly engaging. Stories are read with enthusiasm, capturing children's attention and encouraging participation. Children are supported to name animals and their sounds, guess hidden animals based on size, and learn new vocabulary such as the difference between a hen and a rooster or the names of baby animals. Signs are introduced to support language development and understanding, and sounds are repeated to help embed learning. This approach allows children to think, rationalise their ideas, and build knowledge while having fun.

What does Claire do well?

- Claire ensures children's privacy and dignity during toileting and nappy changes, with Emilia following the same respectful approach.
- Both Claire and Emilia support children's communication by modelling simple questions, encouraging them to express their wants and needs.
- Claire naturally weaves descriptive language into activities, and Emilia reinforces this with younger children.
- Claire and Emilia promote independence and safe risk-taking, encouraging children to try new things while offering appropriate guidance.
- Together they balance child-led exploration with guided learning, ensuring all children feel involved and supported.
- Claire supports Emilia's development through explanations, shared planning and opportunities for Emilia to bring her own ideas.
- All resources are easily accessible, allowing children to choose and explore independently.
- Children have a wide range of resources to support their learning and curiosity.
- Claire knows each child well and plans activities that develop learning while keeping children engaged and interested.

- She regularly communicates with parents via WhatsApp, sharing information about activities and ways to support learning at home.
- Claire updates parents on techniques children are using to manage their behaviour, encouraging a positive partnership.
- She is responsive to children's personal and developmental needs.
- During story time, Claire engages children by leaving out words to test their knowledge and reintroduces stories when needed to support understanding, helping children think and learn through play.

What does Claire need to do to improve?

- Continue attending training to keep up-to-date and bring new ideas to support the children's learning and development.
- Record staff supervisions to identify support delivered to assistants.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Claire has a strong and confident understanding of safeguarding and always keeps children safe. She recognises signs of abuse, neglect, and changes in behaviour, and takes any disclosure seriously. Claire follows all safeguarding procedures correctly, records and stores information securely, and knows how to report concerns appropriately, including referrals to the agency or LADO. She keeps her knowledge up to date through training and updates, ensuring all safeguarding requirements are met effectively.

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	CM00270
Inspection visit date	1 st December 2025
Local Authority	Nottinghamshire
Age range of children	0 – 17

The educator was registered in 2024 and lives in Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire. She has an appropriate qualification at level 6 and works with an assistant. The educator is open from 7.30am to 5.30pm, 4 days a week all year round. She provides funded early education for 9-month-olds, 2, 3 and 4-year-old children.

Claire 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: **Kay-Louise Ley**

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 and her assistant'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* (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⁾.