



Quality Childcare Built on Trust

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator

Inspection report date

Previous inspection date

Fiona Price

19th November 2025

19th June 2024

The quality and standards of the childminder's care and early education	This inspection	Good
	Previous inspection	Good
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 for children to attend Fiona's early years setting?

This childminder early educator is good.

Fiona provides a warm and welcoming environment where every child feels happy, safe, and included. Her play areas are well organised with a wide range of exciting toys and activities that help children learn and explore independently. Children enjoy dressing up and role-playing, using their imagination to act out real-life experiences and build friendships. They also play cooperatively, sharing ideas and taking turns in the play tent.

Fiona encourages plenty of creative play, problem-solving, and developing new skills through books, construction toys, and small-world play. During creative activities, children show great pride in their work. One child proudly said, "I'm making a picture for my mummy. Look, she has eyes, a nose, and a mouth!"

Diversity and inclusion are central to Fiona's setting. She helps children learn about different cultures and traditions, with a colourful display showing countries around the world and where children and their families have visited or come from. Children enjoy sharing postcards, photographs, and foods from around the world, which encourages curiosity and respect for others. Fiona celebrates festivals from different cultures and provides books and toys that help children understand and appreciate similarities and differences.

Fiona also includes regular outdoor learning. Children enjoy walks in the local community, visiting the lake to see the ducks or exploring the allotments to learn how vegetables grow. These experiences help children understand the world around them and develop a strong sense of belonging. Kindness, respect, and positive interactions are at the heart of Fiona's practice, helping every child feel valued, confident, and supported to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment.

What does the early years setting do well?

- Focused activities are planned around the children's interests to encourage their engagement and creativity. The children enjoyed using playdough to make hedgehogs and talked about where hedgehogs live. The activity supported their fine motor skills, imagination, and knowledge of the natural world. Staff encouraged the children to share ideas and praised their efforts, helping to build confidence and a sense of pride in their work.
- Fiona and Richard plan a range of exciting learning opportunities that capture the children's curiosity and make learning fun. They use seasonal topics to bring experiences to life and help children connect with the world around them. For

example, during Autumn, the children enjoy going on nature walks to collect leaves, conkers, and other natural objects. These activities encourage exploration, language development, and creativity while helping children learn about changes in the environment. Fiona and Richard's thoughtful planning ensures every child is engaged, supported, and inspired to learn through play.

- The setting works closely with a range of outside agencies to make sure every child receives the support they need to thrive. Staff communicate regularly with professionals such as health visitors, speech and language therapists, and early help services to ensure children's individual needs are met. This joined-up approach helps to provide consistent support for each child's development and wellbeing, ensuring they make the best possible progress in their learning.
- All children have termly reports, two-year progress checks, and individual next steps that are reviewed regularly. This helps staff to monitor each child's development closely and plan activities that build on their interests and achievements. Parents are kept fully informed about their child's progress and are encouraged to share their own observations from home, helping to create a strong partnership that supports every child's learning and development.

Recommendations

- Review policies and procedures in line with the new EYFS.
- Develop opportunities for children and adults to talk, question and explore ideas together.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything the setting does. Staff have a strong understanding of how to keep children safe and well. Regular risk assessments are carried out both indoors and outdoors to make sure the environment is safe, secure, and suitable for all children. Staff remain alert to any potential hazards and take quick action to reduce risks. They also have a good understanding of the Prevent Duty, recognising the importance of protecting children from extremist views or influences. Ongoing training ensures all staff are confident in identifying signs of abuse, neglect, or concerning behaviour, and they know exactly how to report any worries. Open communication with parents and other professionals helps to create a strong safeguarding culture, where children feel safe, supported, and able to thrive

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	HCEY00230
Inspection visit date	17 th October 2025
Local Authority	Leicestershire
Age range of children	0 – 17

The educator was registered in 2023. She has a level 2 childcare qualification and works with an assistant. The educator is open from 7.15am to 6pm, 5 days a week. She provides funded early education for 2, 3 and 4-year-old children.

Fiona 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 and 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⁾.
- *A guide for childminder agencies (October 2021) Department for Education*
- *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (September 2025) Department for Education*
- *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)*
- *Early Years Inspection Handbook (May 2019) Ofsted* ⁽⁴⁾.