



Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator

Lucy Harris

Inspection report date

19th December 2025

Previous inspection date

N/A

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		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 Lucy's early years setting?

This childminder early educator is good.

Children receive a warm, positive experience in Lucy's setting. They are happy, settled and confident, forming strong relationships with Lucy and each other. The learning environments, both indoors and outdoors, are well organised and filled with toys that spark curiosity and imagination. Children enjoy exploring the role-play areas, construction materials and small-world toys, which help them make decisions and develop their communication and problem-solving skills. Outdoor learning is equally rich, with opportunities to play in the sand pit, mud kitchen, playhouse, and construction area. Regular outings, such as library music sessions, soft play and trips to the park, help children build confidence and understand the world around them.

Children make good progress from their starting points. Children who once found routines challenging now take part fully in group activities, enjoy story time and engage extremely well in singing and circle-time sessions. Speech and language development has improved, with children speaking clearly in sentences and sharing their ideas confidently. Their imaginative play has grown, and they now invite others into their games. Children show increasing independence as they tidy away toys, wipe tables, prepare their own fruit, drink from open cups and put on their own coats and shoes before going outside.

What does the early years setting do well?

Behaviour is managed calmly and positively, helping children feel secure. Lucy shares her behaviour policy with parents, maintains open communication, and uses praise and modelling to reinforce expectations. Children learn about feelings through role play and stories. Lucy supports turn-taking and sharing using tools such as sand timers, helping children develop social skills and independence.

Lucy plans a wide range of activities that support all areas of learning, including singing for language, sensory play for curiosity and fine motor skills, mark making for early writing, and creative and exploratory activities that are engaging and meaningful for the children. Focus activities support children to explore shapes in a hands-on way using matching, counting sides and corners, and combining shapes to create objects. Lucy models learning through questions and demonstrations and extends understanding with a shape hunt to link shapes to real-life contexts. All policies and procedures are in place, regularly reviewed, and compliant with the EYFS, providing a clear framework to support children's safety, wellbeing, and learning.

What does Lucy need to do to improve?

- Encourage children to think and talk about ideas by asking open-ended questions and giving them time to respond.
- Provide parents with termly reports to keep them informed about their child's progress.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Lucy understands safeguarding well and is committed to keeping all children safe. She knows the signs of abuse and neglect and follows correct procedures if she has concerns. She builds trusting relationships with children and families, creating a safe and supportive environment, and regularly updates her knowledge through training and reflection.

Overall, Overall, Lucy shows secure safeguarding practice and takes appropriate steps to keep children safe and well.

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	HCEY00263
Inspection visit date	24 th November 2025
Local Authority	Doncaster
Age range of children	0 – 17

The educator was registered in 2024. She has a level 4 Qualification in childcare. Lucy is open from 7.30am to 6pm, 5 days a week. She provides funded early education for 9-month-olds, 2, 3 and 4-year-old children.

Lucy 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 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 (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⁾.