

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator
Inspection report date
Previous inspection date

Katie Hague
5th June 2026
21st January 2025

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 Katie's early years setting?

This childminder early educator is Good.

Children at Katie's setting are happy, settled and confident within the warm and nurturing environment she provides. Strong relationships are clear, with children regularly seeking Katie and her assistant out for reassurance, comfort and praise. Katie interacts constantly with the children throughout the day, supporting their communication and language skills through meaningful conversations, songs and questions. During activities, she talks to children about what they are doing, names objects around them and encourages them to think and respond. Children enjoy joining in with familiar nursery rhymes, counting games and sensory play experiences which help to develop their confidence and curiosity.

The environment is organised carefully to encourage independence and exploration. Toys are accessible on low shelves, allowing children to make choices about their own play and learning. In the garden, tools and role play equipment encourage imaginative play as children pretend to fix and build things outdoors. Children confidently move around the setting, showing adults what they have made or discovered. Katie supports children to make decisions for themselves, such as choosing their own bibs at lunchtime or encouraging them to participate in personal care routines respectfully and positively.

Children are learning important social skills through Katie's calm and consistent support. Younger children are beginning to understand sharing and turn-taking, with Katie gently helping them resolve conflicts and recognise the feelings of others. Children are developing confidence in communication and independence through daily routines and well-planned activities. Katie's caring approach helps children feel secure and valued, enabling them to explore, learn and build positive relationships with others.

What does Katie do well?

- Children demonstrate increasing confidence in managing small tasks for themselves, including developing self-care skills during daily routines.
- Katie recognises when children need additional emotional support and responds with patience and reassurance to help them settle and feel secure.
- Children are supported to develop their understanding of the world through conversations about familiar experiences, people and places within their community.
- Katie encourages children to explore different textures and materials through sensory activities which support curiosity and engagement in learning.
- Children are developing early problem-solving skills as they explore how objects work, fill and empty containers, and investigate different materials during play.
- Katie has a clear understanding of children's individual stages of development and identifies appropriate next steps to support their continued progress.

- Children are beginning to recognise the feelings of others and show care and concern towards their friends and adults within the setting.
- The assistant is supported effectively through inductions, regular discussions and training opportunities, helping to ensure consistency in practice.
- Parents are kept informed about their children's progress through regular communication and shared discussions about development and care needs.
- Children benefit from a calm and relaxed atmosphere where they are given time to explore activities at their own pace.

What Katie needs to do to improve?

- Continue developing the Self-Evaluation Quality Improvement Profile (SEQIP) to help regularly review and improve the quality of the setting.
- Provide more opportunities for children to learn about different people, cultures and experiences.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Safeguarding arrangements are effective. Katie demonstrates a secure understanding of her safeguarding responsibilities and is confident in recognising possible signs and symptoms of abuse, including changes in behaviour, unexplained injuries and concerns relating to neglect. She understands the correct procedures for reporting concerns and is aware of her responsibilities regarding allegations, whistleblowing and referrals to outside agencies. Appropriate records are maintained, including attendance, accidents and existing injuries, helping her to monitor children's wellbeing effectively. Children are supervised closely throughout the day, including during meals, outdoor play and personal care routines, helping to ensure they remain safe and secure.

More information about this childminder early educator

Regulatory body & the Ofsted registration number	@Home Childcare Childminder Agency CA000017
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Childminder's unique reference number	HCEY00140
Inspection visit date	30 th April 2026
Local Authority	Sheffield
Age range of children	0 – 17

Katie was registered in 2020. She has an appropriate qualification at level 3 and works with an assistant. Katie is open from 8.00am to 6.00pm, 4 days a week all year round. She provides funded early education for 9 months and 2, 3 and 4-year-old children.

A non-inspection quality assurance visit took place within the past year, during which no formal judgement was made. However, Katie received both verbal and written feedback.

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 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 (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 (2025) Ofsted* ⁽⁴⁾.