

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator
Inspection report date
Previous inspection date

Alex Lawrence
20th August 2026
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 Alex's early years setting?

This childminder early educator is Good.

Alex's home setting is a warm and welcoming place where children are confident, happy and comfortable to express themselves. They have plenty of opportunities to choose what they want to play with, with toys such as baskets of feathers, mirrors, books, dressing-up clothes and a home corner easily available. Alex knows what the children enjoy and uses this to make their experiences interesting. Children who love diggers have opportunities to explore this interest through outdoor play and songs.

Children are encouraged to have a go and become more independent. Alex supports them to put on their own shoes and gives them time to persevere rather than doing things for them. Children learn to share and take turns, with older children beginning to understand and explain whose turn it is. They enjoy spending time outdoors in the garden and exploring the local area, including woodlands and local groups.

Children also enjoy a range of playful experiences that support their learning. During a tuft tray activity, children explored different coloured balls and textures, tried fitting objects into containers and developed their understanding of words such as colour, size and "stuck". They were encouraged to try their own ideas and explore how different objects could be used.

What does Alex do well?

- Alex has developed warm, nurturing relationships with the children in her care. Children are happy, settled and confident, and feel comfortable expressing themselves and their feelings with her.
- She knows each child well, including their interests, strengths and areas where they may need further support. Individual interests, such as tractors and diggers, are used to make activities engaging and meaningful.
- Children benefit from a welcoming and well organised environment, with a good range of toys and play materials that encourage curiosity, exploration and imaginative play.
- A good balance of indoor and outdoor experiences is provided, including time in the garden and visits to local groups and woodland areas, helping to broaden children's experiences.
- Alex encourages children to become increasingly independent by giving them time to try things for themselves, such as putting on their own shoes, and supporting them to persevere.
- Alex's gentle support helps children learn to share, take turns and manage their feelings, while building resilience.
- Early learning software, EYLog, is used to track children's progress and share updates with parents through progress checks and termly reports.

- Alex reflects on her teaching and can identify what has worked well and what could be improved, adapting activities to better meet children's needs.
- Positive relationships with parents support open communication about children's learning, development and individual needs.
- Alex is committed to developing her practice through training, network meetings and self-evaluation, using what she learns to improve the experiences she offers to children.

What Alex needs to do to improve?

- Develop self-evaluation processes to demonstrate how practice is continually reviewed, ensuring the ongoing improvement of the quality of care and education provided to children.
- Widen children's opportunities to explore other cultures, religions and the wider world around them.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Alex's home and garden are safe, secure and well-maintained, with children supervised appropriately throughout the day. Alex understands her responsibilities for safeguarding children and can recognise a range of signs that may cause concern. She knows how to record concerns, seek advice and make referrals when necessary, and understands the procedures to follow if an allegation is made. Alex keeps her safeguarding knowledge up to date through agency refresher training and local childminding network meetings. Parents are assured that safety is a priority in Alex's setting. Alex's knowledge and practice of safeguarding assure the safety and welfare of children.

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	HCEY00276
Inspection visit date	13 th July 2026
Local Authority	Gloucestershire
Age range of children	0 – 17

The educator was registered in 2025 and lives in Gloucestershire. The educator is open from 8am to 5.30pm, 4 days a week & 8am-12pm Fridays all year round. She provides funded early education for children aged 9 months & 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, the educator 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 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⁾.