

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator
Inspection report date
Previous inspection date

Emma Heighton
10th August 2026
24th 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 Emma's early years setting?

This childminder early educator is Good.

Children are happy, settled and enjoy their time in Emma's warm, welcoming setting. They confidently move between the indoor and outdoor play spaces, choosing what they want to do and asking for help when they need it. Emma knows the children well and takes time to understand their individual personalities, interests and stages of development. She works closely with her assistants to create a calm, playful atmosphere where children feel valued and included. Children enjoy playing together, washing dolls, drawing with chalk and using water sprays. They learn to share, wait their turn and use kind hands as Emma and her assistants gently remind them to think about how their actions affect others. Children are encouraged to have a go for themselves, becoming increasingly confident and independent while managing appropriate risks.

Emma joins in with children's play, chats with them throughout the day and follows their interests to keep them engaged in learning. When one child wanted to draw diggers, she encouraged this interest, helping to make mark making fun and meaningful. She introduces new words naturally through play and gives children time to communicate in ways that suit them. Emma recognises when children need extra reassurance or encouragement and patiently supports them to build confidence, express their feelings and play alongside their friends. This thoughtful approach helps children make progress at their own pace while enjoying their time in the setting.

What does Emma do well?

- Emma has a secure understanding of each child's learning and development. She uses her observations alongside information from parents to assess children's progress and identify appropriate next steps that reflect their individual needs and interests.
- Emma works in close partnership with parents, sharing information about children's progress through *Baby Days* and working together to support children's care, development and changing needs.
- Emma provides suitable meals that meet children's individual dietary requirements and works closely with families to manage allergies and support children through different stages of weaning.
- Emma plans purposeful learning experiences while remaining flexible, adapting activities to follow children's interests and maximise their engagement.
- Emma regularly reflects on the activities she provides, evaluating what children have learned and identifying how future experiences can be enhanced to extend learning further.

- Emma has established effective systems for observing, assessing and monitoring children's development, ensuring any emerging needs are identified early and appropriate support is planned.
- Emma provides effective leadership for her assistants through a structured induction programme, regular supervision, ongoing professional discussions and training that helps to maintain the quality of the provision.
- Emma has created a supportive team culture where assistants feel confident to ask for advice, discuss concerns and seek guidance to continually improve their practice.
- Emma has strengthened the quality of her provision since previous quality assurance visits by updating policies, improving documentation and further developing her self-evaluation processes.
- Emma demonstrates a strong commitment to continuous professional development. She regularly accesses CPD training, local authority briefings and professional learning opportunities to ensure her knowledge remains current and to continually improve outcomes for children.

What Emma needs to do to improve?

- Build on opportunities for children to explore, experiment and follow their own ideas during play.
- Continue to review self-evaluation documents to identify areas for personal development and improvement.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Emma has a secure understanding of her responsibilities and knows how to recognise and respond to concerns about children's welfare. She keeps her knowledge up to date through regular training and local authority briefings. Emma ensures her assistants receive ongoing training, regular supervision and know the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child. Clear systems are in place for recording concerns, managing existing injuries and working with other agencies when needed.

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	HCEY00243
Inspection visit date	2 nd July 2026
Local Authority	Warwickshire
Age range of children	0 – 17

The educator was registered in 2023 and lives in Rugby. She has an appropriate qualification at level 3 and works with assistants. Emma is open from 7am to 7pm, 5 days a week all year round. She provides funded early education for children aged 9 months and 2, 3 and 4-year-old children.

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 assistants' 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⁾.