



Rutland Early Years Agency

Quality Assurance Visit

Report 2023

*In accordance with the EYFS Statutory Framework,
Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements*





We've built Rutland Early Years Agency on one very important foundation...we listen.

At Rutland Early Years we're passionate about giving children the best possible start. Rutland Early Years was formed in 2015 by its founders Mel and Sam and has developed into the largest Ofsted registered childminding agency in the UK. Rutland Early Years' foundations were built on a drive and passion for putting the development of early years education at the forefront of everything that we do.

The focus that has been missing from the sector in the past is regulated support for those that are responsible for ensuring that the early years education is delivered to a high standard and has the quality mark of Rutland. Rutland Early Years prides itself on offering support to the team of childminders to ensure they are well equipped to keep your little ones happy, in a safe environment and ready to learn through play and exploration.



Working within the EYFS Statutory Framework Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements

3.2. Providers must take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well. The requirements in this section explain what early years providers must do to: safeguard children; ensure the suitability of adults who have contact with children; promote good health; manage behaviour; and maintain records, policies, and procedures.

EYFS (2021)



Rutland's childminders are committed to:

Passion

- ✓ *Love what they do and are committed to bringing out the best in every child.*
- ✓ *Are excited about their business and what their setting has to offer.*
- ✓ *Are committed to developing their practice, supported by yearly quality assurance visits from Rutland Early Years Agency.*

Professionalism

- ✓ *Communicate professionally, showing patience and positivity.*

Partnership

- ✓ *Are adaptive to the needs of their children and families.*
- ✓ *Value the importance of multi-agency working.*

Being home-from-home

- ✓ *A safe and welcoming space*
- ✓ *An environment that supports a child's learning and development*



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Rutland Early Years Good Grading Descriptors

A parent's guide

The following is a guide for parents/carers on what a childminder will have been required to demonstrate to obtain a good grade. If your childminder has received an outstanding grade in any of the areas, or overall, this means that they have exceeded the below requirements. If your childminder has received a support plan, this means that they have not met some of these requirements at this moment in time and are being supported to achieve a good or outstanding grade.

Quality of Education

This childminder has a good knowledge of child development that enables them to support children's learning and development that encompasses the seven areas of learning in the EYFS and focusses on the importance of play in this process. The childminder recognises the importance of the child's voice and children are keen to join in with, and are engaged with, the activities and experiences that are on offer. This childminder has developed good relationships with parents and regularly communicates information about their children. There is evidence that parents are very happy with the care that the childminder is providing. The childminder ensures the development of the children in their care and when a child is not developing in line with expectation and works together with parents and or other professionals to support children. Communication and language skills are promoted well in the setting and the childminder promotes early reading and early mathematics skills in children in preparation for school. Where appropriate, the childminder has established secure partnerships with other settings and professionals, and this supports children well at times of transition.

Behaviours and Attitudes

Behaviour is managed well in the setting through co-regulation that leads to self-regulation as a goal. The childminder uses positive strategies to encourage positive behaviours. The childminder models friendly and polite behaviours and as a result, children are kind and considerate to the other children and the adults in the setting alike. Children have a good attitude to learning and are keen to join in and engage in play.



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Personal Development

The childminder promotes children's personal development by ensuring that children have access to regular outdoor play, and they enjoy regular outings. They are also supported to make healthy meal choices and to join in with hygiene routines. British values and respect for diversity are promoted in the setting. Children are supported to take appropriate risks and to develop independence. The children have developed secure attachments with the childminder and where appropriate assistants and enjoy being in the setting.

Leadership and Management

The setting is well managed. All required policies and procedures are in place and are shared with parents. All required records are kept and stored in line with GDPR. Communications with parents are good. Partnerships with other settings/agencies are good. The childminder keeps up to date with childcare practice by completing regular CPD and training. This childminder is reflective and has plans to improve practice. The childminder has a good and robust system in place to ensure that any assistant/s are suitable to work with children and are consistently delivering a high quality of care.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding in the setting is effective. All the required policies, procedures and documentation are in place and are shared with parents. The childminder has an up-to-date safeguarding training certificate and has a robust knowledge and understanding of the signs and symptoms that a child might be at risk of harm. This childminder knows how to report any safeguarding concerns about a child or any adult living or working on the premises. This childminder has a valid paediatric first aid certificate and keeps this training up to date. All areas of the EYFS Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements are being met. The environment is clean and hygienic and no threats to health and safety were witnessed. This childminder promotes healthy lifestyles with regular outdoor play; by ensuring that children have healthy, nutritious, and balanced meals; and by promoting good oral health.



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Childminder Setting Information

Name	Karibu (Childcare on Domestic Premises) Manager – Simon Jay
Registration number	RA000998A
Date of visit	26 th May 2023
Date of registration	4 th April 2022
Previous grade	First Visit with Rutland Early Years
Evidence of any previous actions being met	n/a
Rutland Early Years support consultant completing the visit	Emily Shardlow

Quality Assurance Visit Report

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements	Not Effective		Effective
Quality of Education	Support plan	Good	Outstanding
Behaviour and Attitudes	Support plan	Good	Outstanding
Personal Development	Support plan	Good	Outstanding
Leadership and Management	Support plan	Good	Outstanding
Overall outcome at this visit	Support plan	Good	Outstanding

The above table indicates a summary of the grading that has been given for Rutland's areas of assessment during your childminder's quality assurance visit. The following boxes give an evaluation of each of our areas of assessment on what your childminder demonstrated during their Quality Assurance visit to obtain their grade.

What it is like for a child who attends this setting

Karibu is a setting registered as 'Childcare on Domestic Premises.' Children are supported by a team of three to five staff members, led by manager, Simon. Children at Karibu are welcomed into a homely, family-style environment where they are nurtured and supported.

Children are given a wide and varied range of opportunities, and staff learn about their needs and interests to plan activities which are highly enjoyable and encourage their progress.



Quality of Education

Quality of Education at Karibu is Outstanding. Children's learning and development is supported exceptionally well by a close-knit team whose curriculum is planned to provide a varied, rich range of opportunities and experiences. Staff know the children extremely well, both in terms of their progress and as individuals. Children's personalities, preferences and individual experiences are all considered and supported in the interactions staff have with them. This close attention to assessment means that staff can plan challenging activities which children enjoy and engage in. Subsequently, children make excellent progress.

Time spent outdoors is prioritised at Karibu. Children have daily walks to parks and woodlands which they grow familiar with, having nicknames for favourite trees or clearings. A member of staff said, "We are going on an adventure," and a child replied, "I'm excited!" Learning in all areas is woven naturally into these outings by skillful staff who pack with them ideas and resources which can enhance and extend children's thinking. Children choose which route to take and are given time to stop and wonder at various features of the natural environment. Children's physical development is supported as they learn to climb trees; supported by adults who encourage them and raise their confidence. Their artistic skills are fostered as they can look through paint sample chips in a range of shades and tones to find a colour to match the leaves that they found.

Simon and the team at Karibu create meaningful opportunities for parents to understand and support their children's learning at home. Parents sent testimonials as a part of the Quality Assurance process and frequent acknowledgement was made to the excellent communication, they receive from staff at Karibu. One parent describes communication from Karibu as, "very clear and proactive throughout," adding, "We have very much felt informed and listened to." Parents receive information about their child in a number of formats including virtual parents' evenings and daily photos and messages sent electronically. Good quality verbal handovers take place each day and parents' own expert knowledge of their children is valued by staff and used to extend children's development within the setting. For example, a child beamed with pride as a staff member said to them, "Your mum told me that your numbers are getting really impressive," and this was followed up with fun challenges at the setting to further assess and extend the child's understanding of number bonds using maths equipment.

Behaviours and Attitudes

Behaviours and Attitudes at Karibu are Outstanding. There is an ethos of calmness and respectful support that is consistent amongst every staff member. As a result, children feel secure and content, and learn to mirror these qualities. Expectations are set clearly, supported with explanations which help children to learn to make positive informed choices. For example, children have an excellent understanding of road safety rules, and this helps to keep them safe and prepares them well for their futures.

Children at Karibu have consistently high levels of respect for each other and show levels of confidence in social situations. The manager refers to the "Karibu family," and this harmonious and cooperative atmosphere between children, parents and staff is strongly evident. For example, children reading a book with an adult naturally make a space for another child to join them when they are standing nearby to watch. Staff and children help each other at tidy-up time and then gather for circle time where the children are thanked for their help. There is a high ratio of adults



to children, and this supports children with their behaviour as there is always someone who can spend time with them, listen to them, and meet their individual needs.

Personal Development

Personal Development at Karibu is Outstanding. Children's health and wellbeing is embedded as a focus in the curriculum and children learn how and why to make healthy choices. Children are served balanced, nutritious meals and snacks from a carefully designed menu which is updated seasonally. Karibu also owns a bed at the local community garden and children have weekly gardening sessions where they learn to grow and harvest vegetables and herbs. As a result, children learn about where their food comes from and may be more likely to try new foods that they have grown themselves.

Staff at Karibu teach children about managing risks by embedding the opportunities to experience 'risky play' in their curriculum and environment. Suitable and sufficient risk assessments are written and shared with all staff to ensure hazards are minimised or eliminated. This allows children to enjoy activities including tree climbing, using tools such as saws and hammers, or jumping off logs and stone walls, as they are able to become aware of their own capabilities and build their confidence.

Leadership and Management

Leadership and Management at Karibu is Outstanding. Manager Simon has implemented a staff structure of Lead Practitioners and Assistants, who all contribute to the setting and are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities. Supervisions are held regularly where staff are given opportunities to openly discuss their role in the setting and their ongoing wellbeing. These are positive and constructive meetings with a manager who staff describe as "open" and "approachable." All staff speak of how much they love working in the Karibu team; and this is beneficial to the children who receive care and education from staff who are knowledgeable, positive, and productive.

A range of policies are in place at the setting which are shared with parents so that the setting can run smoothly. Parents can be clear on the procedures to follow, for example if their child is unwell. Simon reviews and updates all policies; ensuring that they meet requirements and promote good practice.

All staff have a passion for Early Years which shines through, and the children benefit from their dedication. They strive to continually develop as professionals and identify areas where they can undertake further reading or training, striving for exceptionally high-quality childcare. An action plan is in place at the setting which involves all staff in the ongoing progression of Karibu.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding at Karibu is effective. All staff are aware of who to speak to if they are worried about a child or adult in the setting. The manager, lead practitioners and assistants were all able to confidently answer a range of questions on a variety of safeguarding topics, showing an excellent understanding. Staff are able to identify, recognise and respond appropriately to signs of possible abuse and neglect; and this keeps children safe.

All staff hold full paediatric first aid certificates, which helps to ensure children are kept safe and well. Simon has also ensured that all staff and household members hold DBS certificates and suitability checks have been undertaken.

The premises at Karibu are clean, hygienic, and well organised. Children are able to move freely and safely around the setting and measures are put in place to ensure they are kept away from any hazards, for example blocking access to the kitchen whilst hot food is served up. The garden area is secure and well supervised.

Celebrating areas of strength

- A close-knit, highly qualified, and supportive team who are passionate about Early Years and Karibu as a setting.
- A dedicated approach to ensuring outdoor play and learning is embedded in children's daily lives.
- Strong leadership which ensures both consistency and a constant drive for enhancing opportunities for children.

Development advice

- Expand the opportunities for children to add mark making to their play, indoors. For example, an area with drawing materials freely available, or the addition of mark making resources to existing areas such as the home corner or the construction area for children to use to enrich their activities.
- Continue to reflect upon the excellent toys and resources in the setting, particularly in response to the changing ages and needs of the cohort.
- Continue to strengthen links with other practitioners and organisations such as the Stronger Practice Hub, sharing your passion for raising the standards of Early Years education.



Quality Assurance Visits may include, but are not limited to, viewing the childminder's documentation and record-keeping; speaking directly with the childminder and any assistants; relevant questioning; observing the childminder's practice with children; observing any assistant's practice with children; viewing all areas of the setting which are used for childminding; speaking directly to parents/carers; and considering any written views that parents or children may have provided.

If you would like to compliment your childminder on their success and add a review or compliment, we would love to hear from you here:

Email enquires@rutlandearlyyears.co.uk

Call 07908 882120/07411026299

Write to Rutland Early Years Agency Ltd, 2 Market Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6DY

What you can tell us

Is the childcare good?

Can it be made better?

Do you have any concerns?



Rutland Early Years Agency Ltd, Ofsted Registered CA000015





Rutland Early Years childminders:

- ✓ A home-from-home setting
- ✓ Small ratios and strong, loving relationships
- ✓ A highly personalised approach for each child
- ✓ Regular outdoor opportunities that support health
- ✓ Humour, fun, songs, and stories
- ✓ Child-led playful learning
- ✓ A learning environment set up to give children choice and build their independence.
- ✓ Opportunities that develop a deep love of learning
- ✓ Rich conversation and exploration, which builds children's confidence and creativity
- ✓ Sensitive support for children's emotional development and a focus on building resilience
- ✓ Childminders who are supported by an agency which creates a network or 'family' of childminders nationally





Rutland Early Years Agency

Childminders wanted their independence, they wanted a choice, and they wanted support, so here at Rutland Early Years that is exactly what we do. It's with this philosophy that's enabled us to become England's biggest childminder agency, providing new and existing childminders with the expert advice and support they want.

Call: 07908 882120 / 07411 026299

Email: enquiries@rutlandearlyyears.co.uk

Website: <https://www.rutlandearlyyears.co.uk/about/>