

Thinking about
becoming a
registered
childminder?

Children and Families
Information Service



What is a registered childminder?

A registered childminder is someone who provides flexible daycare in their own home for other people's children for two hours or more a day and gets paid.

Who registers and inspects childminders?

The Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted).

How do I get registered?

Firstly, contact the Children and Families Information Service. They will organise a Pre Registration Briefing with a Childminder Adviser. You have to complete this session before you can apply to become a childminder. The briefing will explain the registration process, giving you a chance to ask any questions.

Qualifications and training

Before you can register you will need to complete training which helps you to understand and implement the EYFS.

You will need to complete an on-line Childminder Introductory Training course. Childminder Advisers can talk you through what's available.

- Paediatric First Aid Course (12 hours). You
- have to attend this course before you become a childminder. It will give you the knowledge and confidence to deal with common emergencies in a childcare environment.
- Safeguarding level1 e-learning training
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What happens next?

Your Childminder Adviser will contact you shortly after the above courses are completed. They will arrange a home visit with you.

When Ofsted receive your application, they will carry out checks to ensure you are suitable to look after children and you do not have a criminal record. Similar checks will be made on every person living in your house who is over 16.

The applicant is also responsible for making sure that their premises comply with planning and building control regulations and they must comply with the requirements of their local authority environmental health department and local fire authority.

After these checks, an inspector will visit you to discuss your application and make sure your home is suitable and safe for children. The inspector will also talk to you about the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

How long does it take to register?

Three to six months.

Will it cost me anything?

You will find out more about costs at the Pre Registration Briefing Session or you can visit ofsted.gov.uk for more information.

If I become a childminder who would I work for?

You would be self employed. You will set and collect your own fees, pay your own tax and national insurance payments and keep accurate records.

How many children can I look after?

It depends on how many children you have yourself, how old they are and how much space you have available in your house. As a guide, childminders can be registered for up to six children under the age of eight. Of these, no more than three can be under the age of five and no more than one can be under twelve months old (there may be an exception to this rule if twins are cared for). You will receive a registration certificate which must be displayed during working hours.

Can grandparents register to look after their own grandchildren?

Yes, as long as you also offer your childminding service to other children who are not related to you. However, if a grandparent is registered and has not cared for children other than her grandchildren after three years they will be taken off the register.

How much should I charge?

You set your own fees – most childminders negotiate with parents. Contact the Children and Families Information Service to find out average charges for existing childminders in your area.

Is there any financial help for parents who are paying for childcare?

If parents claim Working Tax Credit they may qualify for extra financial help towards the costs of registered childcare.

Will it cost me anything?

You will find out more about costs at the Pre Registration Briefing Session or you can visit ofsted.gov.uk for more information.

Can I offer free early years provision?

Newly registered Childminders can offer Early Years funding.

Once registered, how often will I be inspected?

You will be inspected at least once every 36 months. The inspector will write a report about your childminding and a copy will be sent to you so you can show it to parents.

Where would I go for advice once I'm registered?

Children's Services staff can provide information and advice. Contact the Children and Families Information Service for contact details. Contact Childminder Adviser within your area. For support and advice through registration and beyond.

- Organisations like PACEY (Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years) and Morton Michel offer their members a free information and advice telephone service, training opportunities and many other benefits.

How would I advertise my service?

You can advertise free of charge through the Children and Families Information Service. The service offers parents and carers instant access to details about childcare providers. You could also advertise in a local newspaper or on notice boards in schools or shops.

Still interested?

Before going any further, consider the following:

- Do you enjoy looking after children?
- How will your own family adapt to the disruption to their normal routine?
- Can you respect a child's individuality regardless of race, religion, disability or family status?
- Do you understand the emotional, social and intellectual needs of children?
- Can you create a warm, safe, loving environment in your home for a child in your care?
- Can you provide children with stability, routine and individual attention?
- Can you provide a good standard of hygiene and a nutritious diet?
- Are you physically and emotionally able to meet the needs of young children?
- Do you have the basic skills to maintain adequate records and run your own business?
- Do you understand the importance of the procedure necessary for registration and inspection?

I want to apply – what now?

Call the Children and Families Information Service on 03457 125737. They will answer any questions you have. Within this pack you will find information about the steps you need to take to become a registered childminder.

Children over the age of 8

Registered childminders can care for children over the age of 8 as long as this does not affect the quality of childcare given to the younger ones on the premises. If you are ONLY going to care for children over the age of 8, there is no requirement for you to register with Ofsted. Instead, you can choose to go on the voluntary part of the childcare register, which will also allow parents who are eligible to claim the childcare element of Working Tax Credit.

What is the voluntary part of the childcare register?

The voluntary part of the childcare register offers the choice of registration to providers who do not have to register with Ofsted. It is a way of showing parents that you meet certain requirements and that you are monitored through inspections.

If you did not meet the requirements of the register, Ofsted would take action to ensure that children are not at risk. This could include cancelling your registration on the voluntary part of the childcare register.

To see more details on the OCR visit:
www.ofsted.gov.uk

For more information please contact:

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Cumbria House, 117 Botchergate, Carlisle, Cumbria CA1 1RD**

t: 03457 125 737

e: childrens.information@cumbria.gov.uk

w: www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/childrenandfamilies/cfis.asp

 /ChildrenandFamiliesInformationService

If you require this document in another format (eg CD, audio cassette, Braille or large type) or in another language, please telephone 03457 125 737.

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে 03457 125737 নম্বরে টেলিফোন করুন।

如果您希望通过母语了解此信息，
请致电 03457 125737

Jeigu norėtumėte gauti šią informaciją savo kalba,
skambinkite telefonu 03457 125737

W celu uzyskania informacji w Państwa języku proszę zatelefonować pod numer 03457 125737

Se quiser aceder a esta informação na sua língua,
telefone para o 03457 125737

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde görmek istiyorsanız lütfen
03457 125737 numaralı telefonu arayınız