



Interested in becoming a childminder?

In England childminders are registered either with Ofsted or an agency. As a childminder you are able to build and offer a flexible service to meet the needs of working parents whilst fitting in with and around your own family.

Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. They register, inspect and regulate services that care for children and young people and services providing education and skills for learners of all ages.

Registered Childminders are self-employed, professional child carers working from their own home caring for other people's children. Childminders registered with a childminder agency are also self-employed but register with the agency rather than Ofsted.

An Ofsted registered childminder is one person, who can work with up to two other people at any one time, looking after children in the childminder's home (domestic premises) for reward, where at least one individual child attends for a total of more than two hours a day. You need to be aged 18 years or over.

There are three registers; Early Years register, Childcare Register and the Voluntary Register. Most childminders are registered on all 3 registers but you can choose to only register on the Childcare register if you will only be providing out of school care for children in year one and above.

Please be aware the Ofsted registration process can take on average between 6 and 12 months

As an Ofsted registered childminder on the Early Years register, you will be working to meet the Statutory Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS) www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2. The framework is mandatory for all Ofsted registered early years childcare providers. It sets out the standards to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept safe and healthy. Children need positive relationships in an

enabling environment for them to develop and learn. This document will give you relevant information to help you understand the legal requirements for registration including the numbers of children you can care for when working as a childminder.

You will be;

- Planning fun and stimulating activities and early learning experiences that support each child to achieve progress in the EYFS areas of learning and development
- Working in partnership with parents to encourage children's learning and development at home
- Planning the routine of the childminding day to meet the children's needs including providing wrap around care for nursery and school aged children
- Keeping children safe at all times indoors and out
- Self-employed and running a home based childminding business
- Working in partnership with other childcare providers, schools and support agencies
- Making a difference for children and families

Will I need qualifications and training?

Although you don't need formal childcare qualifications, before Ofsted registration you must have successfully completed training that helps you understand and implement the EYFS and complete a paediatric first aid course that meet the EYFS statutory requirements.

Kirklees Preparing to Childmind course covers all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage and Childcare register and it will fully prepare you for your registration with Ofsted. Courses run in Huddersfield and the current charge is £300. This course also provides pre-Ofsted registration support. There are other pre-registration training options.

The paediatric first aid course must be relevant for when caring for young children and where relevant, young babies, it must also be in line with the Early Year's Statutory Requirements (EYFS page 22, point 3.25 and footnote 30). The course consists of 12 hours of study. The certificate is valid for 3 years and must be renewed before the expiry date. Failure to maintain an up to date First Aid qualification is a breach of registration requirements.

Competency in English

It is a statutory requirement that childminders are competent in English. You will have to demonstrate to Ofsted that you have read and you are confident that you will be able to meet the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and Childcare Register requirements. You must have sufficient understanding and use of English to ensure the wellbeing of children in your care. For example you must be in a position to keep records in English, to liaise with other

agencies in English, to summon emergency help and to understand instructions such as giving medication.

Access to a computer

Registration with Ofsted is via the on-line portal and the majority of communication is done through emails, so it is important that you have access to a computer and are competent in basic programmes such as sending and receiving emails.

What will I need?

Support of partner and family

Being a childminder allows you to work from home caring for your own children whilst looking after other people's children. No two days will be the same and you will form close bonds and relationships with the children and friendships with the families in your care. Your days are planned by you, which means you can change and adapt, for example to take advantage of the weather and go for a walk to the park or to follow a child's interests. Parents need good quality childcare that is flexible to meet the needs of their family lifestyle, which can mean catering for shift patterns and hours outside the usual 9-5 working day.

However, being a childminder may have an impact on your family; therefore, having the support of your partner and family will help you to build up a successful business. There can also be challenges with working around your family and running a business.

Issues to consider

- No guaranteed income
- Partner works shifts/nights
- Own children attend activities after school
- Other commitments that are rigid and would be hard to fit into a busy childminding routine
- Providing a safe environment indoors and outdoors for children to explore and learn
- Consider arrangements for family pets

You will need a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. You will also need one for each person 16 years of age and over **living** in the same home and any adults associated with your application, for example assistants. If you have any concerns about whether you will pass this check please refer to the DBS referral guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dbs-referrals-guidance--2>

As part of the registration process you will be required to complete a Health Declaration Form which will need to be signed by your own doctor. This form is available to download from the Ofsted website.

What will registration cost?

Initial costs include:

- DBS disclosures (per person) - £52.10 (approx.)
- Pre-Registration course, on average £100 - £300 -depending on training provider
- Health Declaration Form – varies - £15 to £90 (depending on doctor's fee)
- Paediatric First Aid qualification – on average £65 + VAT
- Ofsted registration fee – currently £35- this fee is to register on all 3 registers, however, if you chose to register only on the childcare register to provide out of school care for children in year one and above the fee is £103.
- DBS Live Update Service Annual fee £13 (recommended as good practice but not a mandatory requirement)

On-going costs

- Ofsted annual registration fee – currently £35
- Public liability insurance – varies but approximately annually £45. Must be valid at all times, even when not childminding
- Independent Commissioners Office (ICO) – annually £45. This is required where digital devices are used in support of childminding service for example; use of mobile phones, laptops, I-pads, computers and where records are stored on computer including photographs
- First Aid – varies, on average £65 +VAT (every 3 years) - must be valid at all times, even when not childminding
- Resources – depending on individual circumstances

You don't need to have a big house, you don't even need to own your own home to become a childminder. However, if you are renting you need to gain permission from your landlord. You do need to provide daily outdoor experiences for children so if you don't have a garden or outdoor space you will need to plan to provide for daily outdoor activity. You may need Planning Permission- if there is a business already operating from the property and/or you will be working with another childminder or assistant.

Visit Kirklees Planning Department website for more information:

www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-and-development.aspx

What Support is available?

The Kirklees team of Early Years Community Consultants support prospective and existing Ofsted registered childcare providers in designated areas in Kirklees. Kirklees Challenge and Support strategy sets out the council's aim for childcare providers to be continuously striving to improve. The Early Years Community Consultants will offer advice and information by email, telephone, dedicated web and Facebook pages and planned visits. Early Years providers are challenged to ensure they are providing the best learning and development opportunities in safe and stimulating environments so that children learn and develop to the best of their

ability. www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/working-with-children/pdf/childcare-providers/kirklees-challenge-support-strategy.pdf

What next?

If you think childminding is for you send your name, address and telephone number to cmbriefing@kirklees.gov.uk and an officer from the Early Years Outcomes Team will get in touch with you.

Visit the following websites for information about the regulatory and registration process:-

- ❖ Become a childminder – Ofsted Pre-registration PowerPoint – www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-registration-briefing-for-those-wishing-to-become-childminders
- ❖ How to register as a childminder – information page with details of the process www.gov.uk/register-childminder-childcare-provider
- ❖ Early Years Foundation Stage 2017 www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2
- ❖ Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs HMRC www.gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-if-youre-self-employed
- ❖ Childcare Choices www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/