



## What is a Childminder?

**Interesting facts about childminding** - Childminders manage their self-employed business caring for young children; offering a home-from-home childcare setting looking after small groups of children of different ages and from different families. Officially, if you are paid or rewarded to look after one or more children under the age of 8, for more than a total of two hours a day in a domestic setting (normally your own home) then you must register as a childminder. In England, childminders are registered with Ofsted; this means ensuring childminders attain a certain level of skills, knowledge and competency to fulfil their many roles.

**Legal requirements for childminders** - all childminders must have completed an introductory training course and update paediatric first aid training every 3 years. Childminders also carry public liability insurance and class 1 business insurance to drive with childminded children in their cars. All childminders in England must comply with the requirements of the EYFS 2017 and Childcare Register 2012, local planning, fire and food hygiene laws, health and safety legislation and the Equality Act 2010.

**Childminder responsibilities** - childminding is not the 'easy' working from home option. All childminders are regularly inspected by Ofsted; and closely monitored by their local authority. Childminders must, by law, inform parents about how they can make a complaint against them if necessary (every childminder must have a complaints policy).

- ✚ **Documentation** - childminders must provide parents with documentation to fulfil the requirements of the EYFS and Childcare Registers and to ensure compliance with further Ofsted guidance;
- ✚ **Health and safety** - a safe and healthy environment must be provided for children;
- ✚ **High quality learning** - a play based curriculum ensures children are making excellent progress towards the statutory Early Learning Goals. Childminders must evidence this for each child.
  - ❖ When working with small children, no two days will be the same, but a childminder's typical day is likely to include; cooking with, and for, the children, providing learning experiences and healthy, nutritious meals and snacks.
  - ❖ creative play, reading, and storytelling with little ones.
  - ❖ taking children to and from nursery, school, or their other activities and clubs.
- ✚ **Safeguarding** - children must be kept safe and childminders should attend regular safeguarding training to ensure they are up-to-date with local and national advice and information;
- ✚ **Training** - to ensure their continued professional development, childminders attend regular training wherever available, this may include evenings or weekends;
- ✚ **Specific childminders** are able to offer **15/30 hours a week** funded childcare places for 2,3 and 4 year olds; this is for parents eligible for the government grants for **free childcare**.

**If you need any more information about how to contact childminders in your area; please contact: Julie Sussex @ Edith Kerrison Children's Centre 0207 473 2761**