



Becoming a childminder

Childminders work in their own homes to provide childcare for other people's children

If you are interested in being self-employed and running your own professional business then working as a registered childminder may suit you.

You will need to be able to accurately complete paperwork, plan interesting and challenging activities for children that help them learn, and 'step up to the mark' as childminding is a competitive business. You will need enthusiasm, energy and patience. You must be capable of meeting children's individual needs and be interested in working with families from different backgrounds.

What qualifications will I need?

You do not need any specific qualifications to become a registered childminder but you will need to undertake some training. Childminders must be registered with Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education), who are responsible for ensuring that all childminders meet the minimum registration requirements for either the Early Years Register and/or the Childcare Register - compulsory and/or voluntary parts.

How many children can I look after?

A registered childminder can look after up to a maximum of six children under the age of eight for over two hours a day on domestic premises (normally the childminder's own home) for payment.

How to register as a childminder?

You will need to contact the Family Information Service on 0208 825 5588 or email children@ealing.gov.uk

Relevant information will be sent to you, and once you have read the information and returned the questionnaire, you will be invited to the first of two information sessions for new childminders. The first 'pre-registration' session will inform you about the process of registering as a childminder. If you wish to register, you then need to attend the 'advanced' pre-registration session. You will then need to complete an Ofsted application form and undertake two training courses. The courses are 'Paediatric First Aid' and the first unit of the 'Diploma in Home Based Childcare'. The registration process can take up to 12 weeks from Ofsted receiving the application form.



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What else is involved?

When you apply to become a registered childminder, Ofsted will visit your home to make sure that your premises are suitable, safe and that you are suitably qualified and prepared to begin caring for children. You will need to demonstrate your understanding of the 'welfare' and 'learning and development' requirements as specified in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

In order to make sure that the children you look after will be safe and properly looked after, Ofsted will obtain a number of checks and references including health, social services and criminal records checks. These checks will be undertaken for everyone aged 16 and over living at the address where childminding will take place.

Following registration you will be regularly inspected by Ofsted to make sure you continue to meet the requirements for registration.

What do I charge?

We recommend that you choose a competitive fee which may vary depending on whereabouts you live within the borough of Ealing. As a childminder you are self-employed and run your own business. You must register with Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs to declare your earnings and pay your tax and National Insurance contributions.

How do I promote myself?

You can advertise your business through Ealing's Family Information Service who produce a list of all registered childminders in the borough with vacancies. This list is given out to parents enquiring about registered childminders in the borough. Childminding vacancies can also be advertised on the Childcare Link website and Ealing Council Website.

You can also advertise your vacancies by:

- Word of mouth (telling friends and other people)
- Putting cards or leaflets in libraries, community centres, health centres, doctor's surgeries and local supermarkets
- Advertising in the Childcare Information Point at your local school or children's centre