

How Childminders are Registered

The process of becoming a childminder is one that involves training, criminal and health checks and takes several months to complete. Most childminders are registered with Ofsted but some are registered with a Childminding Agency. All childminders must abide by the regulations in the [Early Years Foundation Stage](#) (EYFS) for children until the 31st August after their 4th birthday and/or the [Requirements of the Childcare Register](#) for children from 1st September after their 4th Birthday until the age of 8 years.

Checks childminders must have

Childminders must have a criminal records check carried out to ensure they are suitable to work with children. This is currently done by the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service). All those over 16 who live or work in the home where childminding is carried out also have to have a DBS check to ensure they are suitable to be in contact with children.

The childminder must also have a health declaration check whereby the childminders GP completes a form about the childminders physical and mental health.

Other checks are carried out with Social Services to make sure the childminder has not had children removed from his/her care or any concerns about their ability to parent their own children.

Checks with the Armed Forces are carried out if applicable.

Childminder Introductory Training

Prospective Childminders must either hold a relevant and current childcare qualification or complete training that enables them specifically to meet legal requirements for keeping children healthy, safe and provide them with a wide variety of experiences to aid their learning and development. Childminders must know how to observe, monitor and record learning and development and plan for children's future learning.

The Safeguarding Children part of Introductory training must be renewed every 2 years.

A full Paediatric First Aid Certificate must be completed which needs to be renewed every 3 years.

Registration Inspection Visit

Ofsted or the Childminder Agency will carry out a registration inspection visit. Ofsted visit only when all checks are completed. Childminder Agencies decide their own timescales of visits.

This visit will assess two things:

- Is the person suitable to be a childminder? (knowledge gained through training and plans to aid children's learning and development.)
- Are the premises suitable to keep children safe with room for a variety of activities that aid learning and development?

An important part of this assessment will be to ensure that the childminder is able to risk assess any situation at home or on outings - identifying hazards and putting measures in place to remove or reduce the risk of injury. Most childminders will have some or all of their risk assessments in writing.

Childminders must have policies and procedures in place and this will be discussed at this visit. It is compulsory to have a Safeguarding Children Policy and Complaints procedure in writing. Childminders can choose whether to have their other policies in writing or not, so you may visit childminders with varying written policies. It is important to remember that even if the childminder doesn't have written policies, the policies have to be in place.

There will be an assessment of space available and the numbers of children that can be cared for. There are legal limits to these numbers which include any of the childminders own children or others they are responsible for such as foster children. Childminders are registered for the maximum numbers unless their space doesn't allow for this.

Each childminder can care for:

- A maximum of 6 children under 8 years
- Of these 6 no more than 3 can be young children (up to 1st September following their 5th birthday)
- Of these 3 young children, there should only be one child under 1 year old.

Childminders can also care for over 8's but these numbers are not limited by their registration. Care for over 8's is not allowed to adversely affect the care provided for under 8's.

When childminders employ assistants or other childminders, each staff member will also be able to care for the numbers of children above if the space available is sufficient.

Please note: Childminders are able to self vary the numbers within the maximum ratios if they can demonstrate that the individual needs of all children are met. For example, when caring for twin babies, the childminder can adjust the ratios to have 2

babies at one time. Variations can also be made to care for a baby alongside the childminders own baby or to provide continuity of care. All parents involved should be consulted and should agree to a variation being made. At **no time** can the childminder care for more than 6 children under 8 years.

At this visit, the prospective childminder will be told if they are suitable for registration and the Inspector will organise the Registration Certificate to be issued. It is only when the certificate has been received by the childminder can they commence to childmind.

What happens after registration?

The childminder will receive inspections throughout the time they are childminding. Timings vary depending on who registered the childminder and the grade they are given on subsequent inspections.

If the childminder has young children on the day of the inspection they will receive one of the following grades:

- Outstanding
- Good
- Requires Improvement
- Inadequate

If the childminder doesn't have any young children on the day of the inspection they will receive one of the following outcomes:

- Met – this means that they meet all the legal requirements
- Not Met – this means they do not meet all the legal requirements

Childminders are expected to tell parents when their inspection is due and to share inspection reports after the inspection has been carried out.

You can search on the [Ofsted website](#) for inspection reports providing you know the Childminders Unique Reference Number that is given upon registration.