

Information about becoming a registered childminder

Caring for other people's children is a responsible and demanding job. This factsheet sets out what is expected of childminders and can help you decide whether childminding is the right career for you.

Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education and Children's Services and Skills)

Ofsted inspects and regulates care for children and young people, and is responsible for registering and inspecting childminders. Ofsted will:

- visit you before, and inspect you regularly after registration
- investigate and act upon complaints, to check that you are still meeting the requirements of your registration and delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

Tel: 0300 123 1231

Camden, your Local Authority, provides the advice and support to childcare providers. The Early Years Quality Support & Training Team (EYQST) offers support to childminders from enquiry stage, through the registration process and when registered. Support is offered via phone, home visits and training or drop-ins at local children's centres.

To prepare for registration as a childminder, you should:

- call an Early Years Advisor to obtain further information
- complete before registering with Ofsted, a course that helps you to understand and implement the EYFS
- complete a paediatric first aid course
- complete DBS checks on yourself and all household members over 16 years of age
- submit a Health Declaration Booklet to your GP
- contact your referees
- familiarise yourself with the EYFS framework
- receive a pre-registration advisory visit and further information on the next step to registration before applying to Ofsted, from the EYQST team

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The EYFS is a single framework that sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five years. The document is mandatory for all childcare providers registered by Ofsted, including childminders. You will need to fully understand the EYFS and put it into practice. The EYFS can be accessed by visiting www.pacey.org.uk/

Competent in English (spoken, reading and writing)

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 those for the safety of medicines or food hygiene.

Your home

You will need to prepare your home to ensure it meets the EYFS requirements, so consider:

- where children will play, eat and sleep
- good standards of hygiene and cleanliness
- kitchen and cooking facilities
- general safety
- outdoor play

Toys, equipment and activities

You will need to:

- provide a balance of adult-led and freely-chosen or child-initiated activities, delivered through indoor and outdoor play
- undertake sensitive observational assessment in order to plan to meet young children's individual needs
- plan and provide experiences which are appropriate to each child's stage of development as they progress towards the early learning goals

Work with parents

You must have a good, professional relationship with parents. When you work together, the results have a positive impact on children's well-being, development and learning. You are expected to maintain a regular two-way flow of information with parents. You must also provide a progress check for all 2 year olds in your care.

Food safety

You will need to be aware of your responsibilities under food hygiene legislation including registration with Camden's Environmental Health Services.

Insurance

You will need Public Liability Insurance at all times and appropriate insurance if you are transporting children in a car.

Running your own business

You will need to register as self-employed with HM Revenue & Customs & be responsible for your own income tax and national insurance contributions.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

You and all household members 16 years and over will need to undergo a DBS check (previously known as CRB) and should consider signing up to the update service.

Data Protection

Childminders need to keep all records in accordance with Data Protection and the General Data Protection Regulation. For more information on data protection, visit www.gov.uk/data-protection or <https://ico.org.uk/>

Training

After registration, it will be important to keep your professional knowledge up to date and attend training regularly to enhance your childcare skills and knowledge.

For further information, please contact the Early Years Advisors on 0207 974 1629 or 0207 974 6172.