

Childminding

Did you know?

Myth-busting for recruitment

“Childminders have to be parents or carers”

Childminders do not have to have their own children to become a Registered Childminder, being passionate to make a difference to children's outcomes, committed to personal development and an Enhanced DBS is all you need to start the registration process.

“I don't want to work full time or when my children are off school”

Being a Registered Childminder allows you to work around family and other commitments. As your business, you can choose to work term time only, part time or part days, deciding the age of children you look after as long as you stay within or below the age limitations of your registration.

“Parents don't want a male childminder”

Not at all, although men working in the early years sector is very much in a minority, those male childminders who already work as a Registered Childminder run successful business's. All those involved in the Early Years Sector are working hard to dispel the perceptions and personal judgements.

“I have a pet so I cannot become a Childminder”

Having a pet will not stop someone from becoming a Registered Childminder. As long as any risk has been removed ensuring children's safety, health or possible allergy. Having a pet is usually welcome by children and parents alike.

“I need a house and garden to be a childminder”

Childminders work from all types of properties including flats and more recently non domestic premises. There is guidance on the number of children Childminders can have depending on the floor space and you may well need permission from your landlord to run a business from your home.

“My home will have to be set up like a nursery”

Not at all, the majority of Registered Childminders can “pack away” at the end of the day. As long as while children attend, toys and resources are accessible to children, a dedicated play room or permanent equipment is not necessary.

“I would have to buy lots of toys, equipment and resources before I start childminding”

Not at all. The Early Years Foundation Stage sets out what learning and development children should be at so as long as the toys and resources are safe and in good condition if second hand, they do not need to be new. Most resources can cover many areas of learning and along with Library visits and lending/swapping between colleagues, the quality of learning outweighs the quantity of resources.

“I don’t want my kitchen to be like catering”

Although kitchens need to be a clean safe environment to cook for minded children, the Food Standards Agency has a wealth of information on their website to ensure Registered Childminders adhere to food safety ensuring the preparation, storing and cooking food will not pose a health issue, including the storage of packed lunches if parents prefer to supply children’s lunch and/or breast milk.

“I would need a book keeper to be self employed”

You can have an accountant but the Government Self Assessment for Tax is easy to use after a Gateway Account is made. The Government website explains what can or cannot be claimed for including heating, lighting, food along with wear and tear from your initial profit. Help and support is available so no need for accountancy costs.

“I would love to be a Childminder but do not understand all the regulations, rules and training needed”

There is no need to worry, from your first enquiry with your Local Authority, there is support and mentoring to guide you through the initial registration process along with business, training and peer support.

“I am not a teacher but hear that Childminders need to have a curriculum like schools”

Although this sounds daunting, for Childminders a curriculum is broken down to: “what you want a child to learn” “how are you going to implement this learning?” and “what impact has this had on the child”. There are certain assessments that need to be done to make sure children are at their expected age development but written lesson plans or a curriculum is not expected.

“I heard that there is too much paperwork and complicated assessments to do”

Government has worked to reduce the burden of written work for Childminders over the last few years, the registration process will explain what you do and do not need to have written and subsequent support and mentoring from your Local Authority will be available.

