Supporting children’s development

Childminding is a career rich with opportunity and reward. The personal satisfaction of supporting children to develop is huge, coupled with providing an invaluable service in the increasingly hectic modern world. If you’re considering becoming a childminder, there are some key questions to consider.

• Do you want to work from home?
• Are you energetic, enthusiastic and caring?
• Could you provide a range of planned activities?
• Would you enjoy working with parents to ensure you give a good service?

A childminder is:

• registered to look after one or more children under the age of eight, for more than two hours a day on domestic premises (normally their own home) for any kind of reward
• registered by Ofsted, and inspected at regular intervals to ensure every childminder meets the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements
• self-employed

How to register as a childminder*

Come along to a pre-registration briefing session, where you find out about the registration process and how to become a childminder. Phone 03000 41 23 23 to find the next and nearest briefing session for you.

At the briefing session you will need to complete a literacy assessment and achieve a level 2. Not to worry if you don’t. You will be directed to Skills Plus, which can help you to achieve this level.

After the briefing session you will need to complete a childminding pre-registration course. Lasting 27 hours, this course will help you to become familiar with EYFS requirements and the business side of childminding. The course costs £50 (subject to change).

After the pre-registration course you will need to complete an Ofsted application (available at ofsted.gov.uk), with all the relevant forms required to register as a childminder.

We are unable to accommodate your children at these sessions so please make alternative arrangements.

*All course attendees must live in Kent

Kent Children and Families Information Service
Kent.gov.uk/cfis
Next Steps

Complete a current Paediatric First Aid course before the point of registration. Phone us to receive a current list of local authority approved first aid trainers.

- Complete the childminder pre-registration course.
- Use Ofsted’s instructions to apply for a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) for yourself and anyone else in your home aged 16 or over.
- Ask your GP to complete a health questionnaire to make sure that you are physically and mentally fit to care for children. Please contact your GP surgery to confirm the cost.
- Apply to Ofsted for a home inspection and suitable person interview (a fee is required when you apply to become a registered childminder with Ofsted).
- Once you have received your registration certificate you can start work as a registered childminder.

If you want to know more

Please phone us on 03000 41 23 23 to book a briefing session or for further advice and information.

The Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (Pacey) is the professional association for registered childminders and the only national organisation dedicated to working for childminding. They can provide additional information about support, insurance and details of membership. Call Pacey on 01622 358660 or visit their website www.pacey.org.uk

Kent County Council
Kent Children and Families Information Service (CFIS)
Tel: 03000 41 23 23
Web: www.kent.gov.uk/cfis
Email: kentcfis@kent.gov.uk
Please note calls can only be taken in English.

This leaflet is available in alternative formats and languages.

Please call 0300 333 5540 for details
Text relay: 18001 0300 333 5540