



## BECOMING A CHILDMINDER

### What is a registered childminder?

Childminders must be registered with Ofsted in order to look after children under the age of 8 years old. All Ofsted registered childminders have to:

- Be registered on the Early Years and/or the Childcare Register
- Comply with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and/or the Requirements for the Childcare Register
- Hold an up to date paediatric first aid certificate
- Be CRB checked
- Attend an introductory childcare course
- Have appropriate insurance cover, including Public Liability Insurance.

Ofsted are responsible for registering and inspecting childminders. Details and outcomes of these inspections (since May 2005) are published on the [Ofsted](#) website. Registered childminders work from their own homes, so childminded children benefit from being in a family environment. Childminders only look after a few children at a time so they can give each child lots of attention, meeting their individual needs. This is particularly important for babies and very young children. Childminders can also care for older children so siblings can be cared for together in a real family environment.

Parents can check if their childminder is registered with Ofsted by contacting the Families Information service on:

- FREEPHONE 0800 035 0335 (excludes some mobile networks) lines open 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday.
- Email us: [childcare@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:childcare@milton-keynes.gov.uk)
- Or alternatively complete an [online enquiry form](#).

Childminding is not something to enter into without very careful consideration and preparation. In order to become a registered childminder there are a number of steps you will need to take. The whole registration and training process can take between 3 - 9 months. Being a childminder is a rewarding career that gives you the chance to play an important positive role in a child's development. You don't need to have qualifications to start up as a childminder, although you will have to gain a certain level of qualification within 6 months of registering with Ofsted. An empathy with and experience of children (either as a parent/carer or childcare professional) is more important.

Attendance at a Pre-Registration Briefing session is required. You will be told about the registration process, what is involved in being a childminder, what support is available and given the opportunity to sign up for the next course.

Contact Milton Keynes College for further information and to book a place on the briefing session and the appropriate child-minding course:

Website: [Milton Keynes College](#)

Telephone: 01908 684510 or 684545

Before the session, you can obtain a free copy of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) pack from the [Teachernet website](#). or please call 0845 60 222 60 (quote reference 00261-2008PCK-EN).

## **What else do you need to do?**

### **Public liability insurance**

This needs to be in place as soon as you receive your registration certificate and maintained even if you are not currently caring for children. There are several insurance companies who provide this cover and it is worth shopping around. You might try

[NCMA \(National Childminding Association\)](#)

[Morton Michel](#)

### **Car Insurance**

If you plan to transport children in your car, you need to be covered for business use on your car insurance. Some companies charge extra for this.

## **Marketing**

Part of running any business is to market and promote the service you offer. More help is available through MK Focus and Milton Keynes Borough Council

### **Registering with HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)**

All Registered Childminders are self-employed and run their own business. There is a legal responsibility for keeping financial records and registering your business with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). Go to <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk> for further help and advice. They also have a newly self-employed helpline 0845 915 4515

### **Record keeping**

If you are registered with Ofsted, you have to keep certain written records as part of your everyday childminding practice. This is a legal requirement and as such will be checked at your Ofsted Inspection.