

# Register guidance: childminder

A childcare factsheet

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The Childcare Act 2006 says childcare is 'any form of care for a child including education or any other supervised activity'.

Most childcare providers caring for children under eight years old must register with Ofsted unless the law says they do not need to.

We register childcare providers on the following two registers.

- The Early Years Register
- The Childcare Register

Introductory reading is in *Registering childcare providers from September 2008*, which is on our website ([www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080043](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080043)).

## The Early Years Register

The Early Years Register is for childminders and childcare providers (see note 1 below) who care for babies and children aged from birth up to the 31 August following their fifth birthday. This is known as the early years age group.

### Early years childminders

Early years childminders care for children in the early years age group on domestic premises (someone's home) for reward. Reward means payment in money, gifts or services. Childminders look after at least one child for more than two hours in any one day. Domestic premises do not have to be the childminder's home but cannot usually be the child's home. However, you have to register if you are caring for the children of more than three families in one of the children's homes. Childminders work alone or with no more than two other childminders or assistants at any one time.

## The Childcare Register

The Childcare Register has two parts.

### ■ **Compulsory part**

If you want to provide care for children aged from the end of the early years age group (1 September following the child's fifth birthday) to eight years, you must register with Ofsted on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register.

### ■ **Voluntary part**

If you want to:

- care for children aged from eight years old up to their 18th birthday
- provide short-term or temporary care
- provide activity-based services such as coaching, or
- provide care for children of any age in the child's own home
- you can register on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

## Childminders on the Childcare Register

Childminders on the Childcare Register care for children who are older than the early years age group or provide services (such as music tuition) where compulsory registration is not needed. As with early years childminding, care is provided in someone's home for reward. Childminders on the Childcare Register work alone or with no more than two other childminders or assistants at any one time. They will normally look after at least one child for more than two hours in any one day. If you provide care immediately before or after a school day for less than two hours, you may still choose to register on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

## Home childcarers and the Childcare Register

Home childcarers care for babies and children from birth up to their 18th birthday. They can care for children from no more than two families at any one time, completely or mainly at the home of one or both families. However, if you want to provide care for a child under the age of eight in the child's own home, for children from three or more families at any one time, you must apply for registration as a childminder on the Early Years Register or the compulsory part of the Childcare Register (or both), depending on the age of the children.

## More information from Ofsted

There is more information about registration on our website ([www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Care-and-local-services/Childcare](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Care-and-local-services/Childcare)). If you are not sure whether you have to register for childcare on domestic premises, please contact us on 08456 404040.

There is more information on the requirements for registration on the Early Years Register in the *Guide to registration on the Early Years Register: childcare providers on non-domestic or domestic premises* ([www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080017](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080017)) and on the Childcare Register in the *Guide to registration on the Childcare Register* ([www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080032](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080032)).

Some childcare providers don't need to register their services and you can find out about the circumstances where providers do not have to register in our childcare factsheet: *Registration not required* ([www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080134](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080134)). This is also part of the *Guide to registration on the Childcare Register*. ([www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080032](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080032)).

The law that sets out our responsibilities is the Childcare Act 2006 and linked regulations. The specific order setting out exemptions from compulsory registration is the Childcare (Exemptions from Registration) Order 2008 (2008 No. 979) ([www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi\\_20080979\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20080979_en_1)). The references to regulations and our policy on registration and inspection are included in our *Framework for the regulation of those on the Early Years and Childcare Registers* ([www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080024](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080024)).

## Further information

Your local family information service (FIS) will help you. You can get their contact details from [www.familyinformationservices.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_comprofiler&task=userslist&listid=7&Itemid=72](http://www.familyinformationservices.org.uk/index.php?option=com_comprofiler&task=userslist&listid=7&Itemid=72), or from your telephone directory.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects registered childcare and children's social care, including adoption and fostering agencies, residential schools, family centres and homes for children. It also inspects all state-maintained schools, non-association independent schools, pupil referral units, further education, initial teacher education, and publicly funded adult skills and employment-based training, the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), and the overall level of services for children in local authority areas.

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