



Cheshire West & Chester Council

How to become an Ofsted registered childminder

Factsheet **2**

Series 5
Information for Parents

This factsheet will help you decide if you want to become an Ofsted registered childminder and will tell you how to register with Ofsted.

The benefits of becoming an Ofsted registered childminder

As a registered childminder you will be able to:

- work from your own home
- care for your own children at the same time as you care for minded children
- choose the days and time you work to suit you and your family
- provide excellent care and education for children in a home environment
- gain childcare qualifications.

To become registered you need training on Pre-registration and Introducing Childminding:

- Ofsted provide a pre-registration presentation which explains the reason for registration, who is involved and the process of registration. This presentation can be accessed via their website.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/pre-registration-briefing-for-those-wishing-become-childcare-providers>

- A Introduction to Childminding Course can be accessed via the National Childminding Association (NCMA) or Skills Junction, Cheshire West and Chester.

The Skills Junction course costs £240, is delivered face-to-face over 8 sessions and is a City and Guilds Level 3 accredited course. The course gives you the understanding and confidence to set up your business as a home-based child carer.

The National Childminding Association course is an online course costing £190 and includes all

assessment and registration fees, plus all learners receive a free textbook written by NCMA.

Once you've signed up, you can access the NCMA course as and when you want to – and complete at your own pace. You will be given a submission date which will be 3 months after you begin the course.



Registration with Ofsted

You can choose which age group of children you wish to be registered to care for.

- If you wish to care for children aged from birth to the 31st August following their 5th birthday you must register on the Early Years Register
- If you wish to care for children aged 6 and 7, you must register on the Compulsory Childcare Register
- If you wish to care for children aged 8 and over or children in their own home, you may register on the Ofsted Voluntary Childcare Register.

What does a registered childminder do?

A childminder may care for a maximum of six children aged under 8 at any one time. Three of these children may be under school age and usually only one of those may be a baby under one. Ofsted will assess the number of children you can care for. Please note your own children will also be counted in the number of children you are registered for if they are under 8 years old.

A childminder is a self-employed business person. No two days are alike for a childminder.

A typical day may include:

- Taking children to and from schools or nurseries
- Providing meals and snacks for the children, involving them in food preparation

- Visits to a park, library or childminder drop-in group
- Planning and delivering fun and stimulating learning activities according to each child's interests and needs
- Observing and recording the children's learning and development.

How do you find out more?

- Go online to the Cheshire West and Chester website and look at the Early Years and Childcare pages for documents and links to further information.

Applying to Ofsted/Insurance

- You must apply to Ofsted after completing the introduction to childminding course
- You are also required to have completed a Paediatric First Aid course prior to registration.
- When you have completed and sent off your Ofsted application and health check forms, they will contact you and let you know how to obtain a Criminal Records Bureau disclosure for yourself and anyone else aged over 16 in your home.
- An Inspector will contact you to arrange a registration visit
- Checks will be carried out on you and anyone else aged over 16 in your home
- You will also require insurance as a childminder prior to your registration this is available from – Morton Michel www.mortonmichel.com or NCMA www.ncma.org.uk
- When the checks have been satisfactorily completed you will receive your registration certificate
- You will be able to begin childminding once you have received your insurance and registration certificate.

For more information

Visit: www.ofsted.gov.uk and www.ncma.gov.uk

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Other factsheets in this series are:

Factsheet 1

Cheshire West and Chester's Family Information Service.

Council information is also available in Audio, Braille and Large Print formats. If you would like a copy in any of these formats or in another language, please email us at

equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

We are also able to provide a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter to support customers with accessing Council services.

Tel: 0300 123 8 123

email: equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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