



Department
for Education

**Department for Education
Early Years, Childcare, Families and
Analysis**

Tel: 0370 000 2288

www.gov.uk/contact-dfe

Email enquiry form:

www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe

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Information for landlords: childminders in England

The Department for Education has produced this letter for childminders to show to their landlords. It sets out what childminders do, the standards they must follow and how landlords can support this important part of the childcare sector.

Childminders in England are self-employed, professional childcare providers. They largely provide childcare for children under eight years of age for more than two hours per day from their own home, and they are required to either register with a childminder agency or Ofsted to operate. Childminders are an essential part of the early education and childcare system, providing flexible, high-quality and affordable early education and childcare. As such, this government values childminders and looks for ways to support them.

We are aware that some childminders face difficulties when looking to open or expand a childminding business. This can be due to a number of reasons – including misunderstandings about the nature of childminding.

You can find some general information about what childminders do at <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/childminder>. There is also a strict set of standards that all childminders must meet. As well as setting out the learning and development that childminders must deliver, it includes requirements around the suitability of premises, safety and the limits on the number of children that a childminder can care for. The Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework for childminders can be found at [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-statutory-framework). Depending on their registration, childminders are assessed against these standards by Ofsted or their childminder agency.

We encourage landlords to look at ways to allow childminders to use rented properties to provide childminding (subject to landlords continuing to meet all applicable legal requirements and insurance obligations in respect of the property). Many landlords already have childminding businesses operating on their premises. Once set up, childminders can generate regular and stable income as well as providing a valuable service that parents have told us they really value for its flexibility and quality. By supporting childminding in this way, landlords would be supporting the wider community and helping to ensure that children receive the best start in life.

We hope this reassures you about the childminding profession, what childminders do and the strict standards that they must meet.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Department for Education using the details at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely,
Department for Education