

Are you considering registering as a childminder?



There are a number of important points you need to consider before starting the Ofsted registration process...

The childminding registration process is often -

Lengthy - in some areas of the country you will wait a few months before getting on an Introduction to Childminding course (normally unit CYPOP 5 'Understand how to set up a home-based childcare service'), complete the training course, gain your qualification, apply to Ofsted, wait a few months for all your paperwork to go through, wait for Ofsted to make an appointment to come out and see you and then wait again for your childminding certificate!

Expensive - very few childminding courses are going to be free from now onwards! Suggested figures of £500 for an Introduction to Childminding course, £100 for a medical check plus extra costs for resources, safety and other equipment, insurance, ICO registration fees and many more incidental outgoings mean that childminding is quite an investment. You need to have money put to one side so you are not struggling financially if there are any further unexpected expenses.

Challenging - before you can apply to Ofsted, you must have completed your Introduction to Childminding Course. In some areas of the country there is a requirement to sit and pass an English and Maths test before starting the course and this is causing some registering childminders a lot of concern.

Difficult - you will need to ask your doctor to complete a medical health screening check and you will also need to have a DBS (formerly known as CRB) check for you and all those over 16 who live or work on your premises.

If you have any medical issues (or have had any issues such as depression in the past) or if you, your partner or children have any criminal convictions, you might not be able to register as a childminder. As these documents are completed AFTER you have taken your Introduction to Childminding course you need to carefully consider the implications of prior arrests or medical problems so you do not waste your money.

Childminder registration teaches you patience ... a skill which you will need in plenty when you are working with children in the future! Be prepared for the inevitable delays and use the time wisely to enhance your skills and knowledge about children and child development and to prepare yourself, your house, garden and family for the inevitable challenges ahead. Your learning and development now will stand you in good stead in the future.

Good luck! Don't forget to visit the Childminding Forum - www.childmindingforum.co.uk
- for support and advice ☺