

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to register as a Childminder?

If you look after children under the age of eight in your own home for more than two hours per day for reward, then you **need** to register with Ofsted.

Ofsted is the government organisation which inspects and regulates childcare in England, and an inspector commissioned by Ofsted will be responsible for visiting and registering you if you decide to register.

As a childminder you will be self-employed and need to be able to run your own business.

From September 2014 childminder agencies have been able to set up to register and support childminders but as yet there are no agencies within Bath & North East Somerset, or any neighbouring authority.

What training will I have to do?

Firstly we recommend you attend a Childminding Briefing. This is a 2 hour session facilitated by the Childminding Team where you will receive information about the requirements to become a childminder and what childminding entails. You will also have ample opportunity to ask questions.

Before registering you will need to complete training which ensures you are able to implement the [Early Years Foundation Stage Framework \(EYFS\)](#). Bath & North East Somerset Council offer an 18 hour Introduction to Childcare Practice (ICP) Course which you can attend. You will also need to complete a 12 hour paediatric first-aid course prior to registration.

What is included in the ICP?

Sessions on :

- early years education and play for the children in your care
- health and safety in the home
- risk assessments for the children in your care and your family
- safe guarding and child protection
- marketing your business
- inclusive practice and equality of opportunity
- record keeping and support for registering with Ofsted.

How much will it cost to start my business?

The cost of the Bath & North East Somerset ICP Course is £190 and you will be invoiced before you start the course. This cost includes a visit from one of the Childminding Team prior to your Ofsted registration visit and one further support visit once you are working.

The cost of First Aid Training can vary depending on the training provider (usually between £80 and £100).

Other costs will be:

- a Health Check which is a form to be completed by your doctor (costs vary)
- Ofsted registration fee currently £35.00
- DBS checks for yourself and anyone else over 16 years in your household – approximately £50 per person

- Public Liability Insurance – costs vary
- You may also need to source safety resources, equipment such as a pushchair and high chair, and suitable toys

Currently the government are offering a grant to help with the costs of starting a new business. More information can be found here:

<http://www.childcarebusinessgrants.dcms.gov.uk/>

How many children can I look after as a childminder?

Childminders may care for a maximum of six children under the age of eight (this includes their own children), of which three can be young children (under statutory school age). Childminders can also choose to look after additional children over 8 years of age.

What if my house is rented, will this affect becoming a childminder?

You will need to obtain written permission from your landlord to childmind in rented property. It would be best to talk to your landlord in advance.

How long will it take for me to become registered?

Ofsted undertakes to register you within 12 weeks of receiving your application forms. You need to be able to meet the EYFS requirements before Ofsted can register you so you need to have completed all training before Ofsted will grant you your registration certificate (which you MUST have before working as a childminder)

If I am a lone parent, claiming income support and I become a Childminder will I lose all of my benefits?

You will need to talk to your Lone Parent Adviser to check your personal circumstances but there are rules around self-employment – especially as a Childminder – which may apply to you and will mean that some of your income from Childminding is not taken into account.

Is there a website where I can access more information?

Ofsted - www.ofsted.gov.uk,

There are also several companies who offer training and support, for example, PACEY and Morton Michel and Pre-School Learning Alliance.

If you think Childminding is for you, or you would like to find out more, please telephone 01225 394042 or email early_years@bathnes.gov.uk to book a place on the next Childminding Briefing