

North Somerset Online Briefing for Potential Childminders August 2025

Welcome to the North Somerset on-line briefing session for people thinking about becoming a childminder.

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North Somerset provides this free on-line pre-registration briefing to help you find out more about becoming a childminder. If you have any questions or would like to speak with a member of the Early Years Team after reading the briefing, please contact us at this email address: early.years@n-somerset.gov.uk

In this briefing we will give you background information on becoming a childminder in England and outline the registration process, as well as giving you an overview of the legislation you will need to work under when you are registered. We will look at

the training required and opportunities for continued professional development. We will look into what it is like to be a childminder – the challenges and rewards and the kinds of things you may do in a typical childminding day. Finally, we will discuss how the Local Authority supports Ofsted registered childminders. Childminders registering with a childminding agency will need to meet the requirements of their agency. Agency registered childminders are welcome to attend any of our training, briefings and clusters.

How to register as a childminder with Ofsted

Ofsted is the government body responsible for the registration and regulation of childminders that are not registered with a childminding agency. Ofsted provides a briefing that:

- Describes the role of Ofsted.
- Explains the process for applying to register as a childminder, or childminders without domestic premises on the Early Years Register
- Explains the process for applying to register as a childminder or childminder without domestic premises on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register
- Outlines the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Gives broad details of the Ofsted registration visit.

You can download the Ofsted briefing from the [Ofsted website](#).

Childminders and childminders without domestic premises

Pre-registration briefing



There is also a guide to registering as a childminder on the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/become-childminder-nanny> This has links to all the information you need about on when/if you need to register with Ofsted, the process, fees and requirements.

As of the 1 November 2024, Ofsted introduced a new type of childcare category, 'Childminders without domestic premises', who can only work from non-domestic premises such as a village hall.

Read the guidance on how to '[Register as a childminder without domestic premises](#)'.

Things to consider

How long does it take to become a childminder?

Ofsted aims to register applicants for childminding within 12 weeks of receiving an application.

What happens once I am registered?

After you are registered, an Ofsted childcare inspector will check the quality of your childminding through inspection within 30 months. During the inspection you and your premises will be checked to make sure you continue to meet the statutory framework and that you continue to be suitable to provide childminding. The inspector will write a report on your childminding and send a copy to you, which you must make available to parents. You will have to pay an annual fee payable on the anniversary of your registration.

Early Years Foundation Stage

This framework is mandatory for all early years providers-maintained schools; non-maintained schools; independent schools; all providers on the Early Years Register; and all providers registered with an early years childminder agency.

Please visit the [gov.uk website for a copy of the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework](#) for childminders.

What skills are required to become a childminder?

As a childminder you will be registered with and inspected by Ofsted to ensure that you are able to meet the requirements for care and education as described in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and Ofsted's Compulsory Childcare Register Requirements. Childminders must provide high quality childcare, within a safe, stimulating and engaging environment. Childminders are responsible for planning and preparing a variety of play based activities and experiences that are relevant to children's age and stage of development. They must complete all relevant documentation as required by the Early Years Foundation Stage, Ofsted, the Inland Revenue and other organisations as required by law.

What will I do as a childminder?

A childminder's job is varied and exciting with many different roles. Here are just some of the things your work as a childminder will involve:

- Plan the routine of the childminding day
- Provide play activities appropriate for each child
- Keep children safe

- Manage children's behaviour
- Monitor children's progress
- Work with parents
- Run a childminding business
- Protect children from abuse

What if I want to work from premises other than my home?

Childminders are able to operate from suitable non-domestic premises for some of their time, it is up to you to decide how best to manage this. Childminders without domestic premises must work solely from premises other than a home.

Childminders wishing to operate from multiple premises should make a single registration application to Ofsted or their childminder agency in respect of those settings and can add additional premises to an existing registration without completing a separate registration application each time they open or acquire a new site. More details about this can be found by visiting the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

Will I need planning permission?

There are some instances where planning permission may be required, for example

- building new premises
- extending existing premises
- or commencing or intensifying childminding in existing premises so that a 'material change of use' occurs.

Planning permission for a change of use **will** normally be required if childminders:

- adapt, alter or extend their property for the sole purpose of childminding, or
- work with two or more assistants who do not live with them in the same house that the childminding takes place, or
- care for more than 6 unrelated children at any one time for more than 3 continuous hours in any one day, or
- consistently otherwise generate visitors, traffic, noise or fumes over and above what would normally be expected if the property were in use as a single family home.

More information about planning permission is available from the North Somerset Planning Department.

Some questions you should think about before applying

- Do I enjoy looking after children?
- Can I offer children a happy and stimulating environment, with sufficient toys and equipment to meet their needs?
- Am I willing to attend training to develop my knowledge and understanding of quality childcare practice and to meet the requirements of registration?
- What hours am I prepared to work? What effect will this have on my own family?
- How do my spouse/partner and my own children feel about me looking after other children?
- Do I feel capable of respecting the individual needs of children who have different family, ethnic and cultural backgrounds to my own?
- Will I be able to get on with parents and share information about their children?

- Will I be able to talk to them about any problems or concerns about their children?
- Will I be able to develop and maintain the paperwork/documentation that is needed to meet the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework?
- Am I willing to attend training, keep abreast of changes and continuously develop good practice?
- Am I able to childmind from my home? You should check there are no restrictions to operating a business on your property (property title deeds) or through rental agreements.

Rewards of Childminding

Can you think of some of the good things about being a childminder?

Here are a few childminders have shared:

- Working with children
- Watching children develop and grow
- Thinking of and providing activities and resources that the children will enjoy
- Sharing pleasures of children with their parents
- Being my own boss
- Being part of a profession
- Going out and about with children
- Working at home
- Being there for my own children
- Supporting families
- Working the hours I want to
- Building special relationships with children and parents
- Pride at being entrusted to care for other people's children

Costs of being a childminder

The following should be used as a guide only as all costs are subject to change. You will need to consider the following set up costs:

- Early Years Foundation Stage training cost – Variable cost and availability
- Paediatric first aid course - £135-£155 through North Somerset iLearn
- An introduction to Safeguarding Children - £0.00 as above
- Registration with Ofsted on the Early Years and Childcare register costs £35 this is £103 if you register on the childcare register only
- Medical declaration form – variable.
- Public liability insurance and membership of professional body, in the region of £70 – £100
- Suitable resources for the children – dependant on resources required.
- Registration with the Information Commissioners Office - £40
- Disclosure and Barring Service check from £49.50

Finding out about the childcare market

Before becoming a childminder, we strongly recommend that you conduct some research to find out what the sufficiency need is in your local area. This can be discussed with the Family Information Service FIS@n-somerset.gov.uk

Income Tax

This will be dependent on the amount you earn. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have produced an online e-learning package for childminders. It explains and guides you through everything you need to know to get started. There are also some useful tips from other childminders. You can work through the course at your own pace, at a time that suits you. The course generally takes between 1 – 2 hours to complete. However, you don't need to do it all in one go. Tax advice for childminders is available on the [HMRC website](#).

Funded Early Education

The Government provides funding to enable children to access early years provision. There are a variety of schemes available to parents, details of these are found on the Childcare Choices website <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Childminders are able to receive funding from the government to care for children entitled to Funded Early Education. More details about claiming for funded entitlement hours can be found by visiting the [North Somerset Funding page](#).

North Somerset Support and guidance for childminders

North Somerset offers a free, individually tailored support package to prospective and newly registered childminders. Members of the Early Years Team are specialists in supporting childminders and prospective childminders. Team members can help you prepare for your registration visit and first Ofsted inspection. Support is also offered as you settle into being a childminder. The Team can help with all aspects of childminding from dealing with parents, to the EYFS to choosing suitable resources. Contact can be through a visit to your home, by telephone and email and face to face at childminding network groups. The Early Years Team publishes a monthly newsletter for early years providers and childminders which contains national and local updates along with articles to help support provision

There are also a number of commercial packages available through specialised companies that provide public liability insurance, pre-made documents such as contracts, registration and medical forms. For example: Morton & Michel, Coram PACEY and the Preschool Learning Alliance.

Self-Employed Status

Most non- agency childminders are self-employed and as such will need to:

- Register with the Inland Revenue and complete tax returns.
- Complete accounts or employ an accountant to do so.
- Register with the Information Commissioners Office regarding data protection. (This is because you will hold personal information about the children and families you work with.)
- Keep written records about children's learning development to share with parents, Ofsted and other professionals.
- Have public liability insurance
- Advertise and market their childcare services.

Suitability Checks

Ofsted carries out a series of checks on applicants and other individuals connected with the application to register on either register. All applicants and anyone associated with the application must give Ofsted their consent to carry out those checks.

Before submitting their application to Ofsted, all applicants and any other individuals connected with the application must complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check online. They are also required to join the DBS update service, visit the [DBS update website](#) for details.

Registration not required

There are some instances when you do not have to register with Ofsted to provide childcare, details can be on the [gov.uk website in the document Childminders and childcare providers: register with Ofsted](#)

What Happens Next?

This briefing session should help you to decide whether childminding is for you, if you wish to proceed, you will now need to:

- Book on an initial training course if required. The EYFS states "Childminders must have appropriate skills, knowledge, and a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities in order to provide good quality early years provision". The Childcare Register requires childminders to:
 - complete a relevant childminding course to enable you to meet the requirements
 - provide training on the procedures in your safeguarding policy to everyone who looks after children
 - attend child protection training
 - make sure that at least one person looking after children has an appropriate first aid qualification

Remember most childminders are registered on the Early Years and Childcare registers and must therefore meet the training requirements of both. There are

various online options for courses, such as the course provided by Coram PACEY, you can find more details by visiting the [Coram PACEY website](#).

- You must complete a Paediatric First Aid Course before Ofsted will register you. This can be booked through the [North Somerset iLearn Together website](#). When you use the website you will be prompted to create a new account, choose 'Early Years Settings' from the drop down menu for 'branch' and Childminder for role. Make sure you add your name when asked about your organisation name. Any problems, you can email ilearn@n-somerset.gov.uk to ask for support.
- Childminders must demonstrate that they have a secure knowledge and understanding of safeguarding within the EYFS and how to implement it in their setting, the childminder is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). and must attend a training course consistent with the criteria set out in Annex C of the EYFS.
- If you plan to care for children under the age of eight years and do not qualify for exemption, you must register with Ofsted. Complete and submit the application forms online at the Ofsted website. <https://www.gov.uk/register-childminder-childcare-provider/overview>
- Contact the Early Years Team for further advice and support early.years@n-somerset.gov.uk

You can start childminding only when you and your home have been inspected and registered by Ofsted or the childminder agency and you have received your certificate.

Foundation Years website

The Foundation Years website has lots of useful information about the EYFS and early years sector <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/>



North Somerset Council website

You can find resources to support you in your role in the [Children young people and families section of](#) our website.