**Co-childminding**
Where two or three registered childminders work together from the same domestic premises we call this co-childminding. Co-childminders may hold equal responsibility for the children in their care or they may specify particular children for whom they are responsible.

**Can I register as a childminder at the home of another registered CM?**
You are able to register as a childminder from any domestic premises not just your own home. Domestic premises refers to any premises which are used wholly or mainly as a private dwelling; this includes another registered childminder’s home.

You may work from any home on your own or with other childminders or assistants providing the total number of people looking after children at any time did not exceed three. Working with other people will potentially allow you to care for increased numbers of children.

Once you are registered you do not need to register again to operate from different domestic premises. You must notify us of each address you intend to operate from and confirm that these are domestic premises. Where you work with other people on those premises you must tell us the names of the other childminders and assistants you are working with. We may also ask you some other questions especially if we have no record of those premises such as any other people aged 16 or over who live or work on those premises; the numbers of children you want to care for from there and any risk assessment you have done relating to the premises. In some circumstances we may visit the premises or interview you.

**How do we need to share responsibility over the children?**
Childminders working together need to meet the requirements of the EYFS at all times. Page 18 of the EYFS states that each child must be assigned a key person. Their role is to help ensure that every child’s care is tailored to meet their individual needs, to help the child become familiar with the setting, offer a settled relationship for the child and build a relationship with their parents.

Co-childminders do not necessarily have to have specific children registered to them, but they must show how they operate an effective system to meet children’s needs continuously. If two childminders work together at all times with a settled group of children then it is reasonable that they effectively share the care and arrangements for all children. However if a number of childminders work together on a part-time basis and/or care for large numbers of children attending part-time, then they may have to allocate particular named childminders to take a lead role in liaising with parents and so on.

**I want to start working from my own home**
If you are already registered as a childminder then you just need to tell us any new addresses you want to operate from. Once you are registered you do not need to register again to operate from different domestic premises. We may also ask you some other questions especially if we have no record of those premises such as any other people aged 16 or over who live or work on those premises; the numbers of children you want to care for from there and any risk assessment you have done relating to the premises. In some circumstances we may visit the premises or interview you.
If you are starting to work on your own and you have previously worked with other people you will need to make sure you meet all the requirements of the EYFS. For example you may need to consider if you:

- have all the policies and procedures you will need in place as these may have been provided by another co-childminder previously.

- have risk assessments in place and your own records of children and so on.

- are covered by public liability insurance.

You will need to assess all applicable requirements and ensure you are meeting them all at all times.

**Inspection**
We normally inspect co-childminders together, but may do so separately especially if they work at different times of the week from different premises.
We expect all registered childminders to be able to demonstrate how they meet the requirements of the EYFS even if they may be an employee of another childminder.
If we inspect childminders together we will take account of their particular way of operating but will also expect each childminder to know, understand and implement the EYFS and may question each childminder independently to assess their own knowledge.
Co-childminders working together are likely to share policies, procedures and resources so the inspection judgements and reports may be very similar. However it is also possible that judgements may differ where childminders have different knowledge of the EYFS.
Co-childminders may share a self-evaluation form (SEF). We would expect each childminder to contribute to it and to be able to demonstrate how they separately and collectively reflect on their practice and improve what they do.

**Minding from multiple provisions**
When a childminder works at a multiple addresses their certificate will state all addresses.

**Action required**
Co-childminders are required to be associated with each other's registration by completing an EY2 application form. The individuals over the age of 16 who live or work at the childcare setting are also required to complete an EY2 form to ensure both registrations mirror one and other.