

# Childminders

Registered Childminders are childcare professionals working in their own home to provide care and education for other people's children in a family setting

The Childminders on the list provided are registered with Ofsted.

Childminders can often provide very flexible care. They can also look after siblings/children of different ages.

You can often negotiate earlier start times or later finish times if required.

If a Childminder has a good or outstanding outcome from their Ofsted inspection you may be able to take up the free 15 hours for a 2, 3 or 4 year old with them.

Please view the information provided. We recommend that you make yourself a shortlist of Childminders you are interested in visiting and contact them to arrange an appointment.

Please read the attached factsheet "Visiting Childcare Providers" and prepare some questions to ask the Childminder. Below is a list of some questions you may consider asking.

## What should I look for when I visit and what questions should I ask?

When you arrive first impressions count:

- Do you get a warm welcome when you arrive?
- Do the children there seem to be happy and content?
- Is the Childminder willing to show you around?
- Is there plenty of outdoor space?
- Does the Childminder interact with your child?

**The following questions will help you to remember some of the key things you should ask when deciding on whether the care they can provide is suitable for your child.**

- Are there vacancies - is there a waiting list and, if so, how long is this?
- Do you have to pay a deposit? If so, what's it for? Is it returnable?
- How much do they charge per hour/day? Do you have to pay for holidays/meals/nappies/other activities?

Family Information Service,  
01635 503100,  
<http://fis.westberk.gov.uk>



*"If a Childminder has a good or outstanding outcome from their inspection you may be able to take up the free 15 hours for a 2, 3 or 4 year old with them"*



- Can you take up the free 15 hours for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds?
- If you want additional hours how much extra will it cost?
- Do they accept childcare vouchers (if this is an option from your employer)?
- Do they offer a settling in period? If so, how long for?

### How many children do they care for?

- Who lives at the address ? (ask about family members and pets)

### What qualifications does the Childminder have?

- Can you see a copy of the registration certificate and inspection reports?
- Can you see a copy of their Paediatric First Aid Certificate?
- Can you see a copy of their Car insurance? (if they are going to be using their car to transport your child/children) – they must be covered by business use
- Can you see a copy of their Public Liability Insurance?

### What are the daily routines and how can they incorporate your child's routines and special needs?

- Where can your child sleep or rest?
- What if your child is unhappy? How would they be looked after?
- What are their policies on discipline and how will you work with me to manage challenging behaviour?
- How will your child's dietary requirements be accommodated?
- What systems do they have in place if a child has a severe food allergy?
- How will your child's cultural background be reflected and respected? Do they have books and activities representing all cultures? What about food/music/religious festivals?
- What opportunities are there for you to be involved?
- How will they update you about your child's progress? Do they provide a record book or learning journey?
- Can they describe examples of how they develop activities to meet individual children's interests and developmental needs?
- What happens if your child is sick?
- What happens if you are delayed picking your child up at the end of the day?
- How will they contact you in an emergency?

### Useful websites to look at:

<http://www.pacey.org.uk/> professional association of childminders and early years (formerly NCMA). Tel: **0845 880 0044**

<http://www.daycaretrust.org.uk/> Daycare Trust. Tel: **0845 872 6260**

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/> Office for standards in education OFSTED. Tel: **0300 123 1231**



*“Can you take up the free 15 hours for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds? If you want additional hours how much extra will it cost?”*