

Becoming a registered childminder in Southwark

Anyone who looks after one or more children under the age of eight years, to whom they are not related, on domestic premises, for reward, and for a total of more than two hours in any day must register as a childminder with the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted).

A rewarding career

If you enjoy being with children and have a genuine interest in their play, learning, and development, can work in partnership with parents and other agencies, and run a business from your own home, then becoming a registered childminder could be a rewarding career for you. As a registered childminder, you will be required to:

- Offer the children you care for a safe, secure, and stimulating play and learning environment.
- Remain compliant with the Statutory Framework for the [Early Years Foundation Stage \(2021\)](#) which include:
 - Providing good quality early years education in line with the Learning and Development requirements
 - Remaining compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare requirements
 - Providing assessments of children's learning and development where appropriate

A **registered childminder** who looks after one or more children under the age of eight years (a maximum of 3 under 5) for more than a total of two hours a day on domestic premises (normally a childminder's own home) for reward and:

- Is registered and inspected by **Ofsted** demonstrating their understanding and delivery of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2021).
- Is self-employed, runs their own business, and provides a service to the families whose children they care for.

Becoming registered

You **must** register with Ofsted on either or both of the following registers before you can legally work as a childminder. These are:

- The **Early Years Register**, for childminders caring for children from birth to 31 August after their fifth birthday. These childminders will have to show that they meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS, 2021).
- The compulsory part of the Ofsted **Childcare Register**, is for childminders caring for children from 1 September following their fifth birthday up to and including the age of seven years.

The vast majority of childminders in Southwark are registered on both registers, giving them the opportunity to care for children of all ages.

Can you register?

To register as a childminder, you must ensure that you:

- Have **the right to work in the UK**
- Are aged 18 or over
- Are allowed to work with children - you'll need to have an enhanced ***Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)** check beforehand, along with everyone else you live with or who is regular visitor to your home aged over 16 years.
- Are physically and mentally capable of caring for children. Your doctor will have to sign a health declaration to confirm this.

* Ofsted requires all childminders to undergo an enhanced DBS checks which include checks on themselves and any other adults aged 16 or older living in the home which you are also required to pay for; this is approximately £60 per person.

[Guidance on the Disclosure and Barring Service \(DBS\) checks: childcare providers](#)

Before you apply:

To support your understanding of the registration process, the requirements of the EYFS (2021) and what you can expect once you are an Ofsted registered childminder in Southwark, you should first request a copy of Southwark's **Childminding Pre-registration Briefing Session**. Please email: ehsadmin@southwark.gov.uk

The Childminding Pre-registration Briefing Session explains in detail the Southwark **Pre-registration childminding Support Package** in becoming a registered childminder, which includes completing the local authority approved **Childminding Pre-registration EYFS training course**. This **six-day** training course includes a **4-day** face to face training course on implementing the core components of the statutory requirements of the EYFS (2021). It also covers aspects of running your self-employed childminding business as well as updates on support available to you as a Southwark registered childminder in continuing your professional development to support young children's care, learning and development both locally and through nationally funded programmes. Following attendance at the Southwark Childminding Pre-registration EYFS training course, you will be invited to a **2-day** (12 hour) Paediatric First Aid course.

Once you have completed your training you have the opportunity to access two pre-registration consultations in your home that you wish to childmind from by your allocated Early Years Quality Improvement Officer to assess whether your home environment is suitable and support you with your online application to Ofsted.

There is a non-refundable charge of £250.00 for this support package. Details of accessing this support and the payment process are given at the Pre-registration information session

Please note it is a requirement of Ofsted registration that **everyone** who applies to become a childminder has completed a childminder training course designed to enable them to meet the EYFS learning and development and welfare requirements. Southwark's pre-registration childminding support package includes our approved training and pre-registration consultations in your home. You may of course choose to access alternative childminding training in providing home-based childcare. If you choose this option, please be reminded that you must also pay for and attend a 2 day (12 hour) Paediatric first aid course before applying for Ofsted registration. Should you then wish to access the **pre-registration consultations** in your home in isolation of the Childminding Pre-registration EYFS training course there would be an additional fee of *£40.

How long will it take to become registered?

From the moment you make an enquiry to the local authority to become a registered childminder it can take approximately *six months to complete the process.

It can take up to 12 weeks **after** you have completed all the necessary training and completed the online application form for an Ofsted Inspector to confirm your Ofsted registration visit.

At this visit, the inspector will expect you to be ready to begin childminding, so you should ensure that you have everything ready. During their visit, the Ofsted inspector will:

- Check your identity, premises, and equipment.
- Ask to see your enhanced DBS certificate.
- Ask you how you plan to deliver all of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (2021), testing your knowledge and understanding.
- Assess how you will help children to make good progress with their learning and development while they are in your care.
- Assess how you will meet safeguarding and welfare requirements.

If your application is approved you will be contacted by Ofsted who will issue you with a Certificate of Registration. You **must not** provide childcare as a registered childminder until you have your registration certificate and have appropriate public liability insurance (PLI) in place which you are also required to purchase.

Southwark's vision for the childminding workforce:

Southwark is committed to providing a differentiated 'Support and Challenge' service. This is set within the core principles of the Statutory Guidance of the EYFS (2021), which encourages all childcare settings to continuously reflect and improve on the quality of their provision to provide a happy, safe, warm, and stimulating environment, which engages parents so all children can play, learn and develop freely and realise their full potential in life.

*Once registered you will be invited to attend a Southwark Safeguarding Level 1 & 2 course free of charge.