

The National Standard: A Guide for Childminders

Understanding the National Standard and Funding Follows the Child

What is the National Standard and Funding Follows the Child?

The National Standard from the Scottish Government sets out the minimum criteria for all Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) providers - including childminders - to be able to deliver funded ELC from August 2020.

The National Standard is provider-neutral - which means it applies to any funded ELC provider, and not one type of setting will be given priority over other - and puts parental choice at the heart of what we do. This means that childminders are recognised alongside other ELC settings, and parents can be confident of quality of care across all settings.

Funded ELC choices may vary locally but placing choice in the hands of parents with 'Funding Follows the Child' enables them to access their child's funded entitlement from childminders or any other ELC provider.



To deliver funded ELC you will need:

- ✓ To meet the National Standard
- ✓ Have a place available
- ✓ Be willing to enter into a contract with your local authority

The Scottish Government's National Standard documents, Principles and Practice and the more in-depth Operating Guidance are available online at bit.ly/scotgovprinciplesandpractice and bit.ly/scotgovoperatingguidance.

What do childminders need to do?

Childminding services delivering funded ELC from August 2020, will need to meet and achieve the National Standard criteria, which means your service requires:

- ✓ Care Inspectorate quality evaluations (sometimes referred to as grades) of 'good' or higher across all themes
- ✓ Meets the recommended adult-to-child ratios, which depend on age groups
- ✓ Achieved or be working towards the benchmark qualification (SCQF Level 7 qualification with 68 credits, to be completed within five years). This could be an HNC Childhood Practice or SVQ Social Services (Children & Young People) – plus our Complete Childminding Learning Pathway - Work Based Award is a useful access path for those working towards the benchmark
- ✓ Allocate 12 hours per year to Continuous Professional Learning (CPL)
- ✓ New childminders (who have registered with the Care Inspectorate up to one year before delivering funded ELC) need to have completed the appropriate induction programme, e.g. SCMA's Complete Childminding Induction Support Programme

In addition to the points above, childminders will also need to meet criteria relating to outdoor play, inclusion, involvement of parents and carers, and business sustainability – which should be outcomes that you are already meeting.

Childminders will continue to register and be inspected by the Care Inspectorate, and there are no plans for additional inspections for childminding services delivering funded ELC.

Look out for a childminder-specific guide to the National Standard from the Scottish Government coming soon. More information at childminding.org or call the SCMA Helpline on **01786 449063** (Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm).