

Why choose a registered childminder?
More flexibility and personal care for your child.



Childminding develops a child's mind

A REGISTERED CHILDMINDER MAKES THE IDEAL OPTION FOR YOUR FREE CHILDCARE HOURS

Your local registered childminder gives you the best blend of flexible support and professional care.

Childminders are professional childcare workers. They provide an essential childcare service for children and their families. Working from their own homes, childminders offer a unique, flexible approach – looking after small groups of children in a family setting. The service can often extend to evenings and weekends, giving parents and carers greater flexibility.

How childminding develops the child's mind

Being cared for by a childminder gives children the chance to learn from real-life experiences. Everyday activities, like trips to the shops, visits to the park, enjoying family meal times or taking part in the school pick-up, all teach your children valuable life lessons.

The Scottish Government wants to encourage high quality, flexible, childcare that's accessible and affordable for all families. It wants to ensure that every child benefits from a quality pre-school experience, and childminders are central to this ambition. As well as more funded hours of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) parents have more choice and flexibility.

"Childminders will be central to our ambitions for a massive expansion of early learning and childcare in the years to come. They do an absolutely crucial job for parents across Scotland... and play a vital role in children's development, which helps to reduce social inequality and close the attainment gap."

Nicola Sturgeon
First Minister
of Scotland

What's new in childcare?

Currently, funded provision of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) is offered to all three and four year olds, as well as eligible two year olds. From August 2014, this funded provision increased to 600 hours per year, equivalent to around 16 hours per week if delivered during school term time. However, the Scottish Government is committed to increasing the ELC entitlement to 1140 hours per year by 2020. This will continue to cover all three and four year old children, and eligible two year olds. High quality will be at the heart of ELC provision, as will providing the flexibility parents need to work, train or study.



Family Information Service

Ask your local Family Information Service for more information about:

- Funded ELC places for your child
- Who is registered to provide free places
- Combining services to match your working hours and benefit your child

Find out more

You can find a registered childminder near you at childminding.org or telephone our Helpline on 01786 449063

Local authorities

Local authorities may offer funded places with a childminder, through their own services or nurseries, or through partners in the private or third sector.

How do the hours work?

A range of hours are offered, from 2½ hours to a maximum of 8 hours a day.

Hours or days are available in school term and holiday time, although out-of-hours cover should be discussed with a childminder.

Childcare quality you can trust

In the Early Learning and Childcare Statistics 2015 Report, published by the Care Inspectorate, 94.2% of childminders are rated as good, very good or excellent across all quality measures. Research shows that good quality ELC helps your child's development, giving children the chance to learn and play with friends in a natural family-style setting. Childminders deliver quality services, developing a child's mind and building confidence within a family childcare experience.

HOW TO FIND YOUR LOCAL REGISTERED CHILDMINDER

It's easy to find a childminder near you. Our members are registered childcare professionals. Search on our website today for a childminder near you:
childminding.org/specialist-services/choose-a-childminder

Your questions answered

Do all childminder services offer funded places for Early Learning and Childcare?

No. Providers must be working in partnership with your local authority which commissions funded ELC places. You can ask your Family Information Service which services provide part-time places, or just ask your childcare provider.

Can my childminder offer FREE places?

Yes. If your childminder offers funded places, the local authority provides funding so they can offer you a FREE part-time place. Your ELC provider or Family Information Service can tell you about any fees which may be charged before or after this free place.

What is registration and inspection?

All childminders must be registered with the Care Inspectorate and be inspected regularly. They must comply with Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland Regulations 2011. See legislation.gov.uk to find out more.

Karen Reid
Chief Executive
Care Inspectorate

"Our inspections show that childminders provide good quality care at a really important time in children's lives. The impact that high-quality childminding can have on children's development is very significant, offering a homely, warm, nurturing environment for children to learn, explore and grow up."

What subjects are covered?

The Care Inspectorate visits the home of the childminder and knows how their service operates. Subjects childminders are expected to cover include: promoting positive behaviours; keeping children safe and healthy; and developing a good learning environment. The Care Inspectorate wants to know how the childminder meets the needs of the child – from nurturing the child to planning and arranging activities.

Low adult to child ratios

Childminders normally care for a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under twelve months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family and household.

94% of childminders rated
Grade 4 or above



The Care Inspectorate ensures that the childminder focuses on the child's needs and that their home is suitable for caring for other people's children.



scma
Scottish
Childminding
Association
committed to quality childcare

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