



Scottish
Childminding
Association

committed to quality childcare

Becoming a Childminder

through the Programme for
Scotland's Childminding
Future

YOUR
STEP-BY-STEP
GUIDE



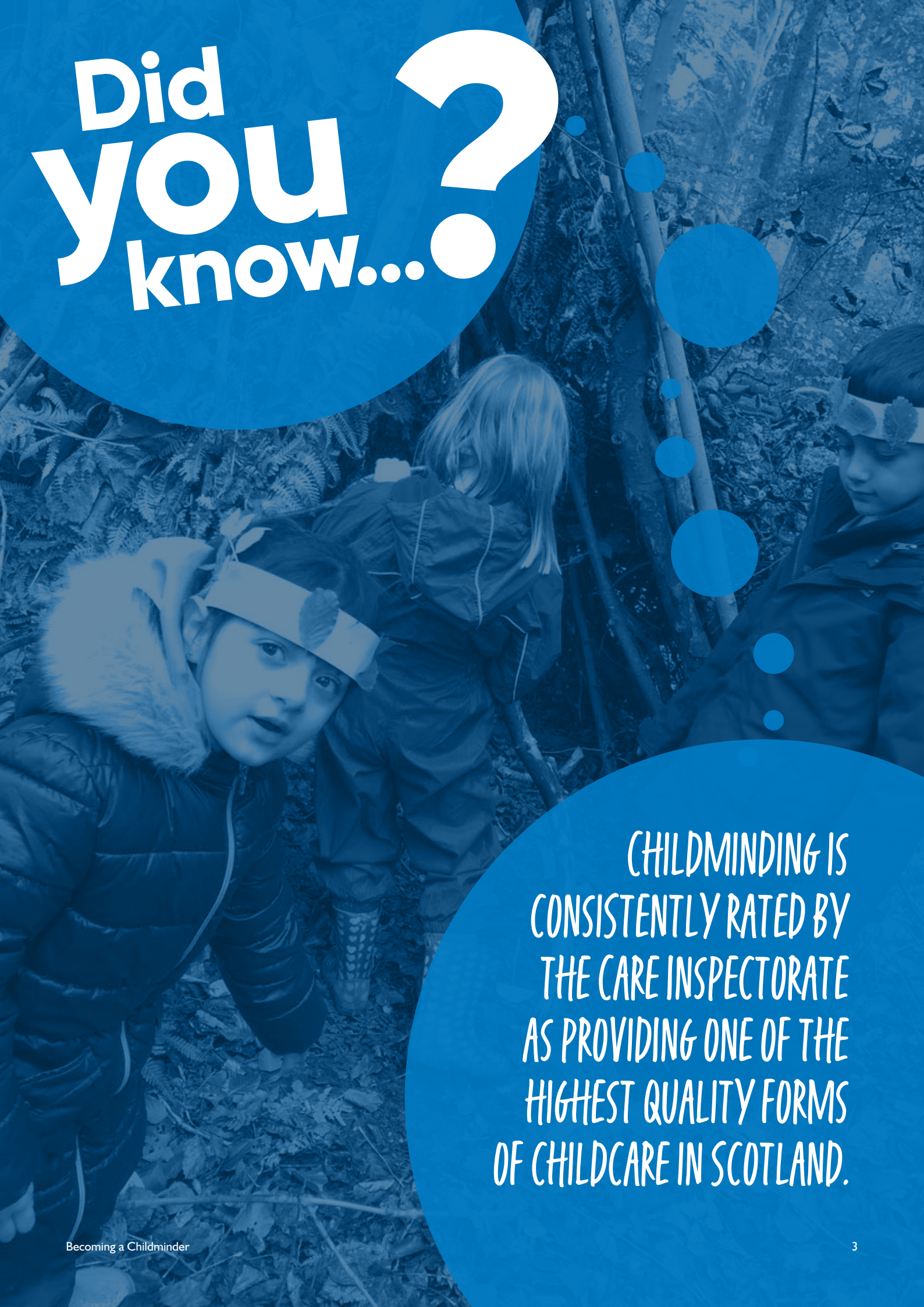
Professional childminders work from their own home to provide a flexible, high quality childcare and learning experience in a nurturing, family setting.



A typical day as a childminder will include providing a range of real-life experiences and stimulating activities for your 'mindees' such as creative play, reading and storytelling, role play, outdoor trips and participating in activities within the local community.

Professional childminders are registered and inspected by the Care Inspectorate, which is the regulatory body responsible for ensuring that all of Scotland's early learning and childcare registered services meet the right standards.

Alongside other childcare providers, childminders are guided by the Curriculum for Excellence and follow the values and principles of the 'Getting It Right For Every Child' (GIRFEC) framework, which has the health and wellbeing of children at its heart.



Did you know...?

CHILDMINDING IS
CONSISTENTLY RATED BY
THE CARE INSPECTORATE
AS PROVIDING ONE OF THE
HIGHEST QUALITY FORMS
OF CHILDCARE IN SCOTLAND.

Why choose a childminding career?

Professional childminding is a fantastic career choice for people of all ages and from a wide range of backgrounds.

Did
you?
know...

CHILDMINDERS ENTER THE PROFESSION
FROM A WIDE RANGE OF BACKGROUNDS
– NURSERY AND EARLY YEARS WORKERS,
TEACHERS, MARKETING, BANKING, DIETICIANS,
ADMINISTRATORS, PROJECT CO-ORDINATORS
AND HAIR STYLISTS TO NAME BUT A FEW!

Professional childminding enables you to:

- ✓ Contribute to children's development and learning.
- ✓ Provide a valuable Early Learning and Childcare service for your community.
- ✓ Develop new skills and qualifications.
- ✓ Be your own boss.
- ✓ Run your own business from home.
- ✓ Earn money while working around your family's needs.

“Childminding is a profession – it's not something that you can be light-hearted about, but it's such a rewarding career. I love interacting with the children and their families, and it's a lot of fun!”

“I'm able to work flexibly, around my own children, and the fact that I'm self-employed is another big benefit.”

SCMA – here to help you!

SCMA is the only organisation in Scotland dedicated to supporting all aspects of childminding – which is why more than 80% of childminders in Scotland are members. We will provide you with all the support and help you need; from the moment you decide to become a childminder and throughout your career.

With SCMA membership, you will be part of a thriving, supportive community of childminding colleagues and have exclusive access to a range of learning and development opportunities, a dedicated telephone Helpline, insurance designed for childcare professionals, legal advice and support and exclusive access to business support and materials.

For more information please [visit the membership page of our website](#)

Steps to becoming a childminder*

*Candidates via PSCF

1

Take time to read this guide and the attached accompanying email & watch the recorded information session.

2

Contact us by using the links on the email 'chat' or 'get started'.

3

Eligibility Check! Our team will support you to complete this.

4

Agreement & Allocation – if eligible, you will sign & return an SCMA 'Candidate Agreement' so you know what to expect & you can be allocated a place!

5

Receive SCMA's Childminding Induction Support Programme & 'Strong Foundations Pack' – important to prepare you for registration.

6

Enhanced support during registration from our recorded videos, group on-line sessions, & tailored support from a dedicated SCMA expert!

7

Download and read the **Care Inspectorate's guide to registering** and then **create your online account**. Registration could take on average 6 months.

8

Receive SCMA's 3 FREE childminding specific on-line learning courses after you've sent off your Care Inspectorate application.

9

When you're registered - you get a certificate & unique registration number & you're ready to start your business! (You also receive your SCMA membership!)

10

Allocation of your business-start up grant (this is reimbursed expenses & we need proof of purchase, check T&Cs).

The Registration Process

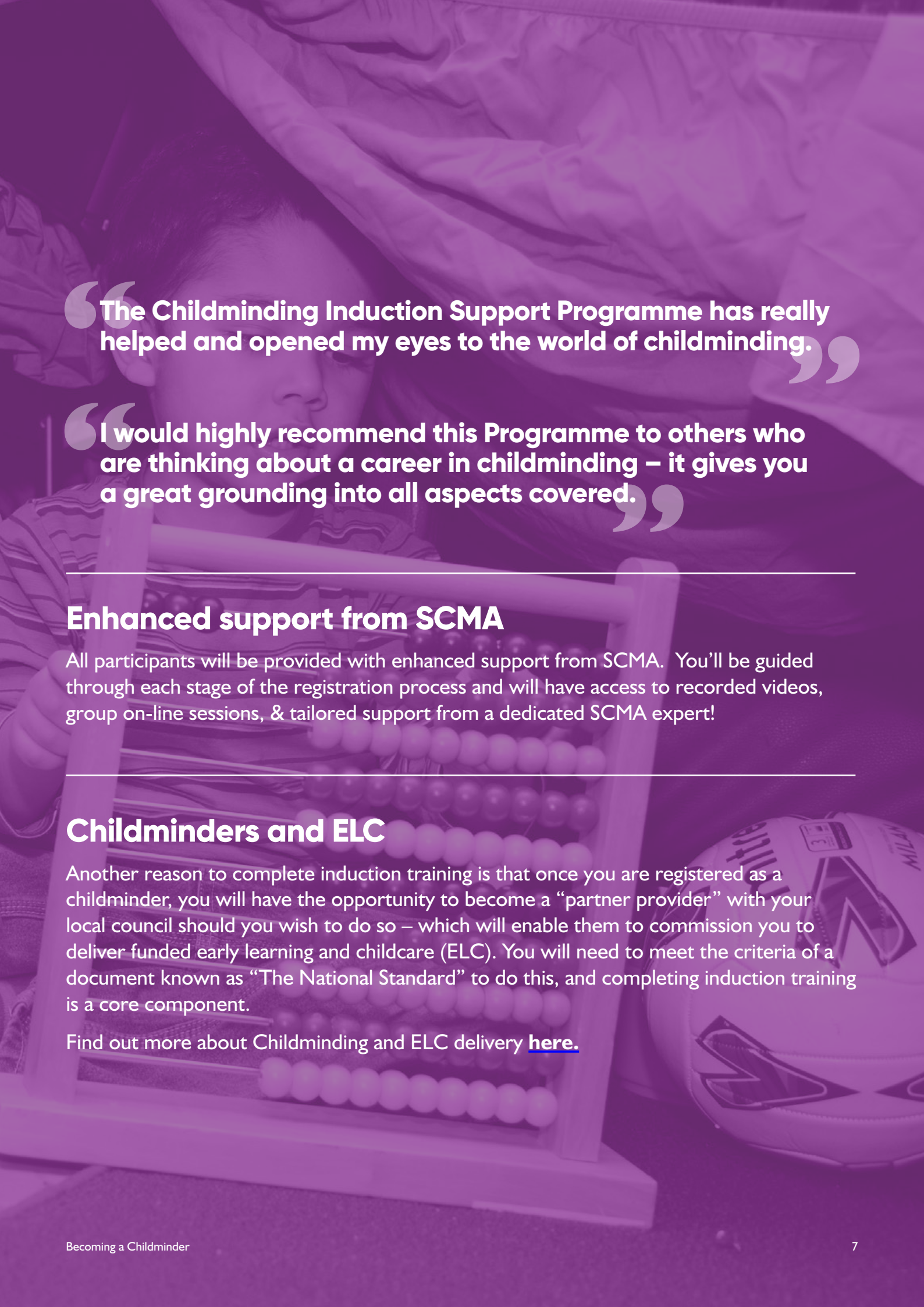
Before you can start welcoming children to your childminding business, you will first need to register with the Care Inspectorate. This process usually takes three to six months.

Preparing to be a childminder

The Care Inspectorate will expect you to complete induction training as part of your registration to become a childminder and SCMA offers a Childminding Induction Support Programme, which includes courses across Scotland and can also be completed online via e-Learning.

It is important that you enrol and begin the course before you begin the Care Inspectorate application, as the induction programme - alongside the Strong Foundations Pack - will help you to complete the registration process.



A young child with dark hair is sitting on the floor, playing with a wooden abacus. The child is wearing a striped shirt. To the right of the child is a white soccer ball with black and yellow patterns. The background is a light-colored, wrinkled fabric. The entire image has a purple overlay.

“The Childminding Induction Support Programme has really helped and opened my eyes to the world of childminding.”

“I would highly recommend this Programme to others who are thinking about a career in childminding – it gives you a great grounding into all aspects covered.”

Enhanced support from SCMA

All participants will be provided with enhanced support from SCMA. You'll be guided through each stage of the registration process and will have access to recorded videos, group on-line sessions, & tailored support from a dedicated SCMA expert!

Childminders and ELC

Another reason to complete induction training is that once you are registered as a childminder, you will have the opportunity to become a “partner provider” with your local council should you wish to do so – which will enable them to commission you to deliver funded early learning and childcare (ELC). You will need to meet the criteria of a document known as “The National Standard” to do this, and completing induction training is a core component.

Find out more about Childminding and ELC delivery [here](#).

SCMA membership benefits

As a member of SCMA, you will be entitled to a range of exclusive benefits – all of which can be accessed online via a members-only area of our website, including:

- ✓ **Free advertising** - by adding your details to our online Childminder Search Service
- ✓ **Free childcare and legal helplines** for guidance and support
- ✓ **Training and learning opportunities** - at all stages of your career
- ✓ **Regular updates** via our magazine, e-bulletins and online at childminding.org
- ✓ Membership with SCMA automatically includes **SCMA Practitioner Insurance**, arranged by Childcare Insurance Services (CIS) and underwritten by QBE UK Limited, so you can be sure that you, your business, and the children you care for are covered.
- ✓ **Business tools and merchandise** - from our online shop

Visit childminding.org/membership for more details or call us on **01786 445377**.

Did
you?
know...

OUR CHILDMINDER SEARCH FACILITY GETS
AROUND 140,000 HITS EVERY YEAR FROM
PARENTS LOOKING FOR A LOCAL CHILDMINDER.



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Further information

For further information about becoming a childminder through the Programme for Scotland's Childminding Future, please visit our dedicated webpage childminding.org/childminder-recruitment

You can also give our friendly helpline team a call on **01786 449063** (Mon to Fri, 10am – 4pm) - no question is too big, or too small!



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

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