

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How much additional paperwork is involved in the A2C Service?**  
You will be expected to use your normal paperwork that you would use for a private childminding arrangement. You will also have to sign a contract with SCMA, complete a BACS form to get paid, and a feedback sheet at the point when the parent transitions over to a private contract with the childminder.
2. **A parent has approached me directly and would like to use my service, can I still join and deliver A2C?**  
Yes, if you meet the criteria and are willing to complete the application form then you can still join the A2C Service. SCMA will make sure that the checks are done quickly to enable a referral to be placed with you.
3. **I am a parent starting employment, how do I find a childminder in my area?**  
SCMA has recruited a bank of childminders who have been accepted onto the A2C Service in each of the areas where the service is being delivered and can provide these details. In addition, if you know of a childminder you would like to use then the A2C Childminding Development Officer (CDO) will contact that childminder and speak to them to find out if they are able, and willing, to participate in the A2C Service.
4. **I am a parent starting work, but my child will be eligible for funded ELC within the 12 weeks, how does this work?**  
The A2C Service only provides funding for school-age children so this will not be affected by any younger children who will become eligible for the funded ELC hours within the 12 weeks that SCMA are paying for the school aged child.
5. **Can I deliver the A2C Service if COVID-19 restrictions come back into my local authority?**  
As a childminder you will have to follow all guidance that is put in place in relation to COVID-19 restrictions. In the event of another lockdown the CDO will liaise with all childminders within the local authority affected and inform them of current guidance and any implications.
6. **In which local authorities is A2C available?**  
The A2C Service is available in City of Edinburgh; Dumfries and Galloway; Fife, North Lanarkshire and Midlothian until March 2023.
7. **Do I need to be a funded provider with my local authority to deliver the A2C service?**  
No, you need to complete an A2C application form, and if you have not yet been inspected by the Care Inspectorate then the CDO will arrange a virtual home visit with you to ensure that

you are meeting the national guidance. Once this has been done and SCMA is satisfied that you meet the criteria then you will be accepted onto the A2C Service.

**8. If SCMA is going to pay for 15 hours per week what happens during the school summer holidays when parents need more childcare?**

We will consider this scenario on a case-by-case basis, if and when it arises. Please talk to us if this is an issue before starting the service.

**9. Is this a short-term contract in the same way as Community Childminding or Wellbeing Service?**

It is anticipated that once the 15-week funded period has ended the parent will continue to use the same childminder for their childcare. We will encourage parents and childminders to plan for this, however SCMA cannot guarantee that this will happen.

**10. Can childminders refer families to the A2C Service?**

If a parent meets at least one of the following criteria (see below), then yes, we would consider a referral from a childminder.

- Lone parent
- Families which include a child with Additional Support Needs
- Larger families (three or more children)
- Minority ethnic families
- Families where the mother or main carer is under 25 years of age

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## More Information

Read more about A2C at [childminding.org/access-to-childminding](https://childminding.org/access-to-childminding).

For any enquiries, please email [a2c@childminding.org](mailto:a2c@childminding.org) to contact the A2C team.



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