

"It ticks all the boxes"

Discover why you made a great choice in becoming a childminder

You'll know why you chose childminding as a career, and why it is such a worthwhile and rewarding job. However, despite the challenges of the past year, it is encouraging that so many people continue to be interested in joining the profession.

Since April 2020, we have received more than 1,800 requests to become a childminder, with almost 300 applying for our Childminding Induction Support Programme. One such person who looked at our website and picked up the phone, was Karen Lothian from Dunfermline in Fife, who recently spoke to Childminding magazine.

"The COVID-19 pandemic was definitely a key driver in my decision to become a professional childminder. With all the restrictions and the fact that I wanted to remain close to home to support my immediate, and extended family - childminding offered me the flexibility that I need.

"As a former teacher, I'm passionate about inclusion and wellbeing; childminding will allow me to continue working with children and supporting their learning and individual journeys. With direct working experience, and knowledge of the Curriculum for Excellence and GIRFEC, I will be bringing lots of transferrable skills to support me in my new profession.

"After accepting redundancy in August 2019, I took some time out to relax and put my family first. I had been looking for new opportunities for a while, but when COVID-19 took over, it encouraged me to explore options where my family would still remain a priority."

As a mum, with experience of working with children, childminding seemed the logical next step for Karen, who is looking forward to establishing her 'K-Club Childcare' setting to support children and families as they grow, develop and learn.

"With K-Club Childcare, I hope to offer a first class, bespoke, flexible childcare provision for other parents and carers, whilst being able to continue to watch my own daughter grow and develop with a new set of peers.

"Throughout the process of becoming a childminder, two things have kept me going - my family, and the opportunity to keep working with children and their families. Becoming a professional childminder literally ticks both of those boxes.

"I've found the whole process of registering fairly straightforward. The new online Care Inspectorate application form is presented very well, and the 'Strong Foundations' pack resource from SCMA proved really useful. I've also called the SCMA Helpline a few times, and have found all the staff to be positive, professional and supportive - just what you need when you are embarking on a new career.

"I can't wait to start my new childminding career - I'm really looking forward to working with children - and their parents/carers - and supporting their growth and development. K-Club Childcare will invest time in people to build confidence and resilience through a 'can do', fun filled, active learning, in a home-from-home environment."



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K-Club Childcare will be launching their new childminding setting very soon, so look out for them on social media. Welcome to Childminding!