

CHILDMINDING IS NOT JUST ABOUT MINDING THE BABIES!

Childminders must provide high quality childcare – but childminding is far more than that! Childminders are inspected by Ofsted and must demonstrate how they provide a high-quality learning environment for early years children, including teaching them new things and supporting their ongoing interests. Most childminders have a play-based curriculum, which aims to ensure children are making excellent progress towards the statutory Early Learning Goals.



NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CHILDMINDING OR BECOMING A REGISTERED CHILDMINDER?

Contact British Forces Social Work Service (BFSWS) on:

T: (00 357) 2596 3609

E: contactuscypus@forcessocialwork.com

BFSWS provide the same role as Ofsted within BFC and work closely with them. They provide support and training from application to registration and you will receive ongoing support during your time as a childminder with BFSWS. All childcare qualifications are transferable on posting. If you are interested BFSWS are here to help.

www.forcessocialwork.com/cyprus



July 2024

BRITISH FORCES WHAT IS A CHILDMINDER?

The legal definition of a childminder is a person who works with one or more children, under the age of 8 for more than two hours a day in their own home for payment, providing both education and childcare. Childminders are self-employed childcare businesses so can work flexibly. They are also able to employ assistants.

www.forcessocialwork.com/cyprus

ARE CHILDMINDERS REGISTERED?

Yes – in England & BFC, most childminders are registered directly with BFSWS & Ofsted. In Wales, childminders are registered with Care Inspectorate Wales and in Scotland, childminders are registered with the Care Inspectorate. Registration with the governing body of the country in which the childminder lives means ensuring childminders attain a certain level of skills, knowledge and competency to fulfil their many roles.

For example, all childminders in England must be suitable to work with children, have paediatric first aid training (renewed every three years) and further training to fulfil their role, including undertaking a safeguarding /child protection course and regular Continued Professional Development.



LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDMINDERS

All childminders must have public liability insurance, and business insurance to drive with childminded children in their cars (if relevant). . A business licence to operate from an SFA (Service Family Accommodation) is also required. BFSWS carry out a rigorous pre-registration visit to check the childminder's house and knowledge before registering them.

All childminders in BFC & England must comply with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS – for children from birth to age 5) which is the statutory framework, and the Childcare Register (legislation which covers the care of children from age 5 upwards). Further legislation will also apply: fire and food hygiene laws, health and safety legislation, the Information Commissioner's Office (data protection legislation) and the Equality Act 2010.

CHILDMINDER RESPONSIBILITIES

Childminding is not an easy working from home option. All childminders are regularly monitored by BFSWS & Ofsted and must, by law, undertake regular safeguarding training and inform parents about how they can make a complaint against them.

Some of the responsibilities of a childminder include:

Advertising – childminders must market and advertise their own businesses, but BFSWS can support you with this;

Business administration – much of a childminder's free time is taken up with ensuring ongoing records such as attendance registers, accounts, policies and procedures (Safeguarding / Child Protection and Complaints are statutory and must be shared with parents), record keeping such as two year progress checks, risk assessments etc. All documentation must comply with the EYFS and Childcare Register and be regularly updated;

Health and safety – a safe and healthy environment must be provided for children. This includes compliance with Safer Food Better Business for Childminders and EU allergy legislation, doing regular risk assessments and understanding the hazards children face at different stages of their lives;

Nutrition – children must be offered a good nutritional balance through the day. Most childminders will offer parents information about their healthy eating ethos and provide a copy of their menu (if food is offered);

Training – to ensure their Continued Professional Development, childminders attend regular training in the evenings or at weekends – work does not stop when the last child leaves the setting. **You may need to undertake a Level 3 Award in Preparing to Work in Homebased Childcare;**

Working with others – childminders should not work in isolation. They are advised to build positive and rewarding working relationships with parents, other settings that children can attend and the local community to ensure children's early years experiences are complemented.