



Become a registered childminder in Wales

“I would definitely recommend registered
childminding. It's the best job ever!”

Karen, registered childminder, Swansea

Why choose registered childminding?

If you are passionate about giving children the best start in life and would like a career that fits in with your family commitments then becoming a registered childminder could be an ideal choice.

As a registered childminder you can have a rewarding career running your business from your own home, working with some of the most inspiring and enthusiastic people around – children.

As a registered childminder you will offer a safe and stimulating learning environment. Every day will be different although a typical day may include:

- arranging imaginative and stimulating learning activities
- getting out and about in the local community to parks, libraries, play groups or to meet fellow childminders
- providing meals and snacks
- taking children to and from school, pre-school or clubs.

You will be able to watch the children grow, and play a crucial role in their early development. As a registered childminder you will:

- support children's learning by embracing the principles of the Foundation Phase in Wales
- work in your own home, choosing the hours you work and the services you provide
- care for your own children at the same time if you have a family
- get to know your local area
- join a community of 2,400 childminders across Wales providing flexible and high-quality childcare.

Making a difference

As a childminder you will be making a difference in many ways – developing your own skills and your own business whilst supporting children, their families and working as part of your local community.

Childminding is a dynamic and evolving career, and there will be courses and training opportunities that will help you develop your knowledge, confidence and skills.

For example, you could complete a course in delivering the Welsh language to children, improving their development and broadening your own skills further.

You can also specialise in a specific area, such as caring for disabled or vulnerable children, making a very real contribution to their lives. Your care will also provide valuable support for their families who may struggle to find suitable childcare.

One of the best things about caring for children is watching their

excitement as they learn something new, or achieve something for the very first time. As a childminder you will be making an important contribution to a child's learning and development whilst also helping local families, by providing the childcare that can help parents work or enter training or education.

“I access training whenever I can. I pick up new ideas and information whilst meeting other childminders.”

Anne, registered childminder, Gwynedd

Becoming registered

Anyone who provides childcare for children under 8, for more than two hours a day and for payment is required by law to register with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW).

If you do not register you will be breaking the law. Families will be able to check if you are registered by getting in touch with their Local Family Information Services (FIS).

Before you are able to register, you will need to complete introductory training, fill out a CSSIW application, complete policies and procedures and show that you can meet set standards. All applicants will undergo a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check, and will have their home inspected to make sure it is safe and suitable for the care of children. You will also need to obtain Public Liability Insurance.

CSSIW will set a maximum number of children that you are able to care for at any one time, up to a maximum of six children under 8, of which usually no more than three may be under 5. These numbers will include your own children if you have any.

You will also receive inspections from the CSSIW at regular intervals to make sure that you are continuing to meet all the necessary standards and regulations. This is a really important part of demonstrating to parents that registered childminders offer safe and professional care for their children.

Where next?

The National Childminding Association (NCMA) is a professional membership association working to support childminders by providing training opportunities, promoting the profession, updating members with the latest information, offering specialist insurance, business paperwork and legal advice. If you think that registered childminding could be the career for you, then get in touch.

For more information on NCMA Cymru, or support with becoming registered as a childminder in Wales:

Tel: 0845 880 1299

Email: ncmacymru@ncma.org.uk

To join NCMA:

Web: www.ncma.org.uk/join

Tel: 0845 880 0044

Other sources of information

Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)

The Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) is the national body responsible for registering and inspecting childminders in Wales.

Tel: 01443 848450

Web: www.cssiw.org.uk

Family Information Services (FIS)

Family Information Services (FIS) will hold information about registered childminders, and nannies, within a local authority area.

Tel: 0300 123 7777

Web: www.wales.gov.uk/family

NCMA Cymru

Ocean Buildings, Bute Crescent, Cardiff, CF10 5AY.

NCMA Head office

Royal Court, 81 Tweedy Road, Bromley, Kent. BR11TG.

