



Childcare choices for children and families

A manifesto for home-based childcare at the 2010 general election

The National Childminding Association, the professional association for childminders and nannies, is calling on the next UK Government to support home-based childcare and ensure all families and local communities have a wide choice in a vibrant childcare sector.

The National Childminding Association (NCMA) asks you to support this manifesto.

1. Accessibility

Ensure that every family in every community has access to a high-quality, home-based childcare setting by addressing the decline in childminder numbers through investment, support and the promotion of childminding.

2. Quality

Support the continued professional development of registered childminders and nannies, by investing in training, qualifications and childminding networks, so all children can benefit from the high-quality play and learning on offer in home-based settings.

3. Affordability

Help parents with the cost of childcare and give every family the option to choose childminders to deliver government-funded childcare places. Ensure that parents who need extra help during school holidays, or families with disabled children or children who have additional requirements are able to choose personalised, responsive and flexible home-based childcare.

4. Recognition

Recognise the contribution that childminders and nannies make in helping reduce child poverty by supporting families back into training or work. Ensure home-based settings have equal access to government support and funding, nationally and locally, to enable all parents to have genuine childcare choice.

Visit a home-based setting

To arrange a visit to a home-based setting in the constituency where you are standing at the general election, please contact Tim Farrow at NCMA on 0845 880 0044.



"Home-based childcare enables children to thrive and their individual needs to be met. Every day, over 60,000 registered childminders in England and Wales and 30,000 nannies provide nearly 350,000 childcare places to children of working and student parents, including disabled children, children with additional requirements, babies and pre- and school-age children."

Susanna Dawson, registered childminder and NCMA Chair



The benefits of home-based childcare

Childminders and nannies offer a personalised, responsive approach to childcare that allows each child to develop a close relationship with their adult carer, and to influence their own play and learning opportunities.

NCMA believes children of all ages benefit from home-based childcare, play and learning because it is:

Consistent – a child is cared for by the same registered childminder or nanny each day, often over a number of years.

Flexible – a registered childminder or nanny can often offer care to fit around varied working hours, including shift patterns or overnight care.

Inclusive – a registered childminder or nanny can care for children of different ages and abilities together in the same group.

Community-focussed – a registered childminder or nanny can reflect the needs of local communities and enable the children they care for to be part of their local community.

Personalised – a registered childminder or nanny can meet the requirements of individual children and families, such as teenage parents or disabled children, and adapt to their changing needs.

Supportive – younger children thrive in home-based childcare because they are cared for in smaller groups and by the same registered childminder or nanny each day.

The National Childminding Association (NCMA) is a charity and professional association. We believe every child should reach their full potential and, since 1977, have worked with registered childminders, nannies and other individuals and organisations, such as local and national government, to ensure families in every community in England and Wales have access to high-quality, home-based childcare, play, learning and family support.

This manifesto has been produced by NCMA. Further copies are available from Tim Farrow on 0845 880 0044 or from our website at www.ncma.org.uk.

