



Welcome

This newsletter is sent to you by the National Childminding Association (NCMA), a charity and professional association. We believe every child should reach their full potential. Since 1977 we have worked with registered childminders and nannies, as well as 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 newsletter is supported by The Children, Young People and Families Grant.

EYFS review recognises key role of childminders

NCMA has welcomed the recommendations in Dame Clare Tickell's Review of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which recognises the vital contribution of childminders to early years education.

NCMA childminders played a central role in informing the consultation through focus groups, childminding visits and written responses, and the positive outcomes of the review reflects their crucial involvement.

Key elements included a scaling down of the early learning goals from 69 to 17 which will require less paperwork, an explicit requirement to keep paperwork to an absolute minimum and that opportunities for professional development across the early years workforce should be readily available, particularly for single practitioners like childminders.

NCMA commented on the EYFS review. To read this, visit www.ncma.org.uk/news. You can read the full review at www.education.gov.uk/tickellreview.

NCMA Annual Regional Meetings

The NCMA Annual Regional Meetings (ARMs) take place in May. This is a chance for NCMA members to get involved and discuss important childcare topics, sharing your views with NCMA.

Annual Regional Meetings are often accompanied by lunch, training sessions and a chance to network. At this year's Annual Regional Meetings each region will elect volunteers to become Regional Organising Committee members and National Policy Forum (NPF) Representatives.

For further details of the volunteer roles available in your area, please contact Sarah Edwards on 020 8290 2524, or at sarah.edwards@ncma.org.uk. If you are an NCMA member, you can find out more details about Annual Regional Meetings by logging into the My NCMA area of www.ncma.org.uk or see page 42 of the April/May edition of Who Minds? magazine.

Have your say

NCMA is calling on members to put forward "resolutions" for the Annual Policy Debate 2011. As an NCMA childminder or nanny member, you can suggest childcare topics that you would like NCMA to campaign on. From the topics put forward, a number of widespread issues are

approved as resolutions for members to vote on at the Annual Policy Debate, held on 5 November 2011. If members vote in favour of a resolution, that resolution is "passed".

What happens if a resolution is passed?

NCMA will take action to try to secure the outcome asked for by members. So, putting forward a topic for discussion means that you can directly influence NCMA's work. Some resolutions ask NCMA to investigate an issue and report back to members, and many ask NCMA to lobby for or against an issue. NCMA lobbies on many issues, not just those put forward as resolutions, on your behalf. Lobbying can take many forms, but NCMA:

- Has regular meetings with government officials
- Takes part in group meetings with other childcare charities
- Invites MPs and AMs (in Wales) to visit NCMA members
- Submits responses to consultations giving members' views
- Carries out research to back up members' views

How can I put forward a topic?

If you are an NCMA childminder or nanny member you can fill in the online form at www.ncma.org.uk or email whominds@ncma.org.uk. Alternatively, post your idea to Resolutions, NCMA, Royal Court, 81 Tweedy Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 1TG. The deadline for suggesting topics is 13 June 2011.

Nursery World Awards 2011

You can now submit your nominations for the Nursery World Awards 2011. NCMA's Chair, Susanna Dawson, will be one of the judges. There are several categories that registered childminders or nannies could enter, including:

- **Childminder of the Year.** Nominees must be registered childminders
- **Early Years Professional of the Year.** Nominees must have gained Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) through one of the recognised pathways
- **Newcomer of the Year.** Open to early years practitioners with less than one year's experience at the closing date
- **Trainer of the Year.** Open to anyone responsible for early years and childcare training in colleges, training companies or in-house for groups such as nursery groups.

Nominations close on 11 May 2011. To find out more, or to submit your nomination, visit [Nursery World Awards](#). If you do nominate someone – or even yourself – [please let us know](#), and we'll do our best to support you.

Dads included

NCMA has joined the Dads Included campaign, led by the Fatherhood Institute.

The campaign will help to promote the positive work already happening with home-based childcarers and fathers and also to offer childminders a chance to sign up to the website to contribute to ideas on how to engage with fathers in their setting.

[Dads Included](#) aims to transform children's, family and health services, including maternity services, pre-schools/nurseries and schools, into services which systematically engage with and support both fathers and mothers. There is convincing research evidence that services that engage with fathers and couples will encourage strong and stable father-child and parental relationships.

Registered childminders can start their own forum on the site and also take the Including Father's test to see how well they work with dads already. For further information visit www.dadsincluded.org

Working as a male childminder

Kevin Rush, from Andover in Hampshire, became a childminder in order to restore his work–life balance.

“With my previous jobs in management I didn't see much of my family. Money's never been my main motivator, so I decided to take a break in June 2009 and spent the summer looking after my two boys (now 8 and nearly 4). I absolutely loved it and knew I'd have trouble giving that up to go back to work.

A couple of people suggested I try childminding. I've always been surrounded by kids – I'm the youngest of five and my mum used to foster – and so I registered.

When I first started working last April I was really nervous about being a bloke. I joined the Andover Childminders Association who have been very supportive – I would've been lost without them – and I'm now their PR officer, too. For me, the biggest challenge is being disciplined in the paperwork, but luckily my support childminder is Diane Olsen, an NCMA member who won Childminder of the Year 2010 at the Children's Stars Awards.

I've got five children on my books and they've pretty much all joined through word of mouth. With some, where there's been a lack of male influence at home, the fact that I'm a man is what's swung it. I think there can be misconceptions about male childminders – for example, that there'll be more discipline – and, interestingly, all the dads have insisted on meeting me first. But it doesn't matter what sex you are; it all comes down to personality. I know I bring enthusiasm and energy, and I love to play.

I would highly recommend childminding to other men. You're going to be the only guy in a lot of places, and financially I'm earning nowhere near what I was in my old job, but it's not about the money. This morning I spent an hour playing with a plastic kitchen and driving cars around my living room. There aren't many jobs where you get to do that.”

NCMA is the National Childminding Association of England and Wales. NCMA is a membership organisation and national charity which promotes quality home-based childcare for the benefit of children, families and communities. Charity Number 295981.

For more information about NCMA and its work, visit www.ncma.org.uk or call 0845 880 0044.

| [Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Comments](#) | [NCMA Website](#) |