

Childminder

As a childminder, you are not required to have any formal early years qualifications, but you must complete training to be able to understand and implement the [Early Years Foundation Stage](#)

Framework. You can do this by taking the Level 3 Award in Preparing to work in Home Based Childcare qualification. You will also need to hold a full current paediatric first aid certificate (PFA).

In England, childminders must be registered with and inspected by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/become-a-registered-early-years-or-childcare-provider-in-england>

In this job role you are likely to:

- Offer professional home-based childcare and early education, looking after small groups of children of different ages and from different families.
- Be well placed to support the early learning and development for children of all ages, working closely with parents and other professionals to provide bespoke care and support.
- Be your own boss and work the hours of your choosing.

Opportunities for Progression:

Childminders often remain working in the early years and childcare sector, taking on a variety of roles within schools, health, nurseries, children centres and adult teaching.

Following the L3 award in preparing to work in home based childcare you may choose to take a level 3 Early Years Educator qualification (approved by the DfE – see the [Early Years Qualification List](#)) choosing the work based course with on the job training and assessment.

Your local college or training provider will be able to provide more information about training, qualifications and funding. You should check that the qualification you are intending to do is approved by the Department for Education please visit: [Early Years Qualification List](#)

Many childminders go onto level 4 and Level 5 qualifications.

For information about training and providers see:

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/childminders/becoming-a-childminder/pre-registration-training-in-england/>

<http://eyupskill.org.uk/>

For careers information, visit nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk or call 0800 100 900

Case studies

Childminder

Rebecca, Somerset

Rebecca is based in Yeovil, Somerset and her setting currently looks after 17 children between the ages of 8 months to 9 years. Previously working as a catering manager, Rebecca became a childminder after the birth of her son. She started her business on her own and recruited an assistant for more support after her son was diagnosed with brittle bones. She now works alongside one co-minder and employs two assistants. She was Nursery World's Childminder of the Year 2016 after being recognised for her outstanding setting and commitment to 'nurturing the whole family to promote children's happiness in response to an increasingly busy and stressful world'.

"I am proud to be in a sector that shares a common goal to give every child and young person the best possible start in life, and to support every family on their journey."

Charlotte, Cambridge

Charlotte is based in Cambridge and has worked in childcare for over twelve years. She began her career as a nursery worker, and became a registered childminder four years ago so that she could be self-employed and manage her own setting. Charlotte works on her own and has seven children on her books. She runs weekly support meetings for childminders in her area and is currently studying for a degree in early childhood.

"I wish that other people understood what childcare means! It's not just sitting on the sofa watching children play, it is educating, caring, nursing, laughing and nearly every other job out there rolled into one."

Jennie and Steve, Wiltshire

Childminding couple Jennie and Steve Brown from Wiltshire have a combined 51-year career in childcare. Throughout their career, they have looked after an estimated 100 children between them. After they married and had their own children, Jennie had a desire to work, but didn't want to leave her own children. She became a registered childminder, with Steve assisting her on his days off as a police officer. This set the ball in motion for the future, as they both enjoyed working together and caring for children. Eventually they became full-time co-childminders.

"We think that the most rewarding aspect of childcare is watching the child in your care that arrives as a little baby grow and become a person in their own right... They continue to develop into teenagers, and then young men and women who, even now, stop in the street and acknowledge you with fond memories of their childhood – and even

come to us to care for their own offspring. Then you know that you got it right."

Vicky, Bromley

Vicky has worked as a childminder for eight years, having previously sold investment properties in the City of London. Her career change came about when she struggled to find high quality, reliable childcare for her own children. She is a single parent to four boys, and works alongside her mother, who is her assistant. Vicky's setting currently cares for nine children ranging from 10 months to 8 years. She holds an early years degree and has received an 'outstanding' grade both times she has been inspected by Ofsted. Vicky runs a local support group for childminders in her area.