

“ I use a childminder to look after my son Joshua, because he is cared for as part of a ‘family’. The environment is a home from home and she offers him and the other children in her care quality time. He is included in a variety of activities which support and stimulate his learning and development.

She is regulated by Ofsted and holds an Outstanding outcome, which she deserves. She offers everything my family needs and more, I would not be able to go to work without her support.”

**Mum Rebecca from Shotley Gate.**

## WILL MY CHILD GET TO MIX SOCIALLY WITH OTHER CHILDREN?

Childminders offer one-to-one care for your child in a home environment, and also support

them to mix with other children. Many childminders work closely with other childminders.

## HOW MUCH DO CHILDMINDERS COST?

As childminders are self-employed there is no national rate and they set their own fees. Usually, they charge between £3.00 and £4.50 per

hour. Some offer a discount if they are looking after two children in the same family. Meals and snacks may be provided at an additional cost.

## CAN I GET HELP WITH MY CHILDCARE FEES?

Whether or not you can receive help with paying for childcare depends on your circumstances. Some childminders offer free early learning, which enables eligible 2 year olds and all 3 & 4 year olds (up until the child starts school) to

receive their entitlement of 15 hours (per week) of funded childcare.

If you would like to find out what you may be entitled to, please phone the Suffolk Families Information Service (FIS).

## CHOOSING A CHILDMINDER

### How do I find a childminder?

Contact the Suffolk Families Information Service for a list of registered childminders in your area. You can also search for childminders online at <http://fsd.suffolk.gov.uk>

Always ensure the childminder is registered by asking to see their Ofsted Registration Certificate and most recent inspection report. Make a short list of childminders who you would like to visit, and then make arrangements to see more than one you like, preferably with your child.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Phone:

**Suffolk Families  
Information Service (FIS) on**  
**0845 60 800 33**

*(Open Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm)*

Visit:

**[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)**  
*(Early Years Foundation Stage Framework)*  
**[www.suffolk.gov.uk/childcare](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/childcare)**  
*(Finding and choosing childcare)*  
**[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)**  
*(Inspection reports)*  
**[www.pacey.org.uk](http://www.pacey.org.uk)**  
*(FAQs to ask a childcarer)*  
**[www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk)**  
*(National Children's Bureau)*



## WHY CHOOSE A CHILDMINDER?



## WHAT DO CHILDMINDERS PROVIDE?

Childminders work from their own homes to provide care and learning opportunities for other people's children. Childminders can be flexible around the hours they work and can offer an individualised and family friendly service.

Like nurseries, schools and preschools, childminders implement the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which is a structured play based framework used to establish

children's individual learning and development for all children aged birth to five.

Childminders offer a variety of creative learning opportunities for children. Most use their own homes or gardens to inspire the children's imagination by creating different environments where the children play and learn. They also undertake regular outings and visits to local parks, museums and toy libraries.

## HOW CAN I ENSURE THAT A CHILDMINDER PROVIDES QUALITY CHILDCARE?

Childminders must be registered with Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills). They can care for up to six children under eight years old at one time (this will include any of the childminders own children of this age).

Childminders are regularly inspected to ensure they provide a high standard of childcare that keeps the children healthy, safe and secure at all times, and that they provide a stimulating learning environment for the children. Childminders' inspection reports are published on the Ofsted website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk) and you will need their unique registration

number (URN) to identify them. You can request this from the Suffolk Families Information Service or ask the childminder to show you their Ofsted report before choosing to take up childcare with them.

“ A childminder is a second mummy or daddy, a teacher, a nurse, a doctor, a chef, a chauffeur, a friend, a playmate.”

Childminder Karyn from Ipswich.

## WHAT TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS DO CHILDMINDERS NEED TO HAVE?

All childminders must meet Ofsted requirements which include undertaking Paediatric First Aid Training and completing an 'Understanding how to set up a

home based childcare service' training course in order to register as a childminder. They will continue to keep their training up to date.

## WHAT ADVANTAGES ARE THERE FOR USING A CHILDMINDER?

### Some advantages of using a childminder:

- Your child will be one of a small group and will have plenty of individual attention.
- Childminders can often be very flexible with the hours you require childcare. This can be convenient at times when you need extra cover! They are able to offer out-of-hours, before or after school care for your child.
- Many childminders offer a school drop-off and pick-up service for parents. They can also provide childcare during the school holidays.
- A childminding arrangement can become a strong friendship that lasts for years for some parents.

