

A home childcarer is someone aged 18 or over who cares for children from birth to 17 years of up to two families at any one time, wholly or mainly at the home of one of the children. This includes nannies. A home childcarer can be self-employed or employed by one or more families.

Home childcarers do not have to register with the Office for Standards in Education, Children's services and Skills (Ofsted) but may choose to register on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register.

A home childcarer may choose to register to:

- reassure parents that they are checked, insured and have had minimum training
- enable eligible parents to claim the Childcare Element of Working Families' Tax Credit.

What is the Childcare Register?

The Childcare Register is the Ofsted register of providers who care for children from birth to 17 years. The register has two parts, compulsory and voluntary.

Providers who do not have to register on the compulsory part may choose to register on the voluntary part. These are mainly people looking after children aged eight and over, or providing care in the child's home.

You cannot register to care for a child if you are the child's parent or step-parent. You can register if you are a grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother or sister (whether of full blood or half blood, or by marriage

or civil partnership), as long as you are available to care for other children.

Does Ofsted inspect registered home childcarers?

A random selection of all those on the Childcare Register are inspected to see if they comply with the requirements for registration.

All home childcarers on the Childcare Register are inspected if Ofsted receives a complaint that relates to the requirements of registration, or any conditions Ofsted may have imposed on a registration.

How do I apply to go on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register?

Applications can be made:

- online by following links from the Ofsted website at www.ofsted.gov.uk
- over the phone to a member of staff in the Ofsted National Business Unit on **0845 6404 0404**
- by requesting a paper application over the phone or by post from Ofsted NBU, Royal Exchange Building, St Ann's Square, Manchester, M2 7LA.

What are the requirements?

Home childcarers on the Childcare Register must meet the requirements for registration set out by Ofsted in the **Guide to Registration on the Childcare Register** which can be found at www.ofsted.gov.uk

These include:

- a first aid qualification appropriate to the ages of the children being cared for which should be renewed every three years
- a qualification at a minimum level 2 in an area of work relevant to childcare, or training in the core skills as set out in the document **Common Core of Skills and Knowledge for the Children's Workforce**
- an enhanced CRB disclosure
- insurance for liability which may be incurred for death, injury, public liability, damage or other loss.

How long does it take to registered?

The process usually takes about 12 weeks. However it may take more or less time depending on the checks that need to be carried out.

How much does it cost?

The application fee for registration on the Childcare Register for home childcarers is £103.

The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure fee is £44.

The current annual fee payable on the anniversary of your registration date is £103.

Where can I find out more?

Contact **Devon Early Years and Childcare Service Registration and Inspection Support Team** on **0800 056 3666** email registrationsupport@devon.gov.uk or go to www.devon.gov.uk/eys

Ofsted www.ofsted.gov.uk