

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.

You can:

- use a self-employed home childcarer who will come to your home and charge you
- employ a registered home childcarer and pay them a wage. As an employer you then have responsibilities towards your employee and should agree a contract with them.

In either of these cases you can find out about registered home childcarers in your area from **DISC Devon's family information service** at www.devon.gov.uk/disc or by phoning **0845 155 1013**

You can also find a suitable carer and work with them to become registered with Ofsted. 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.

Do 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.

You can find information about home childcarers and Ofsted registration on the Ofsted website at www.ofsted.gov.uk

If you are interested in becoming a home childcarer see our factsheet at www.devon.gov.uk/cypsfactsheets