

If you have queries about any of the above, please email

✉ eyservice@gloucestershire.gov.uk ✉

Early Years Newsletter

Business Support & Funding Team

26 July 2024



Good afternoon!

Dear Childminders,

With the increased demand for childcare places following the Childcare Reforms announcements we are aware that some childminders are considering working with others to offer more childcare places.

We thought it would be useful to share some information with you all regarding regulations when working with Child-minding Assistants or Co Childminders. If you are currently

working alone and are considering expanding your child-minding places to support increased local demand, please ensure that you are aware of your responsibilities.

Please do consider the points below and ensure that you are compliant.

Are you a childminder who works with other registered Childminders or assistants from your registered address?

Childminders working together from one premise

This applies whether you are working in a Self-Employed capacity or are Employed by the childminder who's home you are working from.

In the case of childminders working together from the address of one of the childminders, each childminder is responsible for meeting the requirements of their own registration.

Childminders working alone or with assistants must take lead responsibility for safeguarding children in their setting.

If you are a registered Childminder working at the home of another registered Childminder, you must;

- inform Ofsted of the details of the other registered childminders address and registration number
- details of others you may be working with e.g. other registered childminders or assistants.

If you are working for another childminder, are you aware that you will assume the responsibility of a childminder assistant and cannot be left in sole charge of the children attending for more than 2 hours in any one day even if you are a fully registered childminder unless all the children are registered with each childminder working at the address as per EYFS guidance 3.80

Registered Childminder registered at your home address and working at the address of another registered childminder

If you are a Registered Childminder who operates from both your own address, which is the primary setting childminding premises, and at other childminders address and you are contacted by Ofsted regarding carrying out your inspection, you must inform them of the number of children on roll across both sites not just your primary setting address

- E.g. - you have no children attending your primary setting address but work with children on roll at the secondary address

This will enable Ofsted to arrange to carry out the inspection at the secondary address with children on roll.

Co Childminder Partnership

If you are 2 or 3 childminders working together in a partnership arrangement at one registered address but have your own individual clients and contracts with parents, of the children you are responsible for.....

- Are you aware that you will not be able to care for your co childminders contracted children in that co childminders absence for more than 2 hours in any one day as in that situation you would be classed as an assistant?

Ofsted state even though you are a registered childminder in your own right, you can only care for a co childminders children in his/her absence for a maximum of 2 hours per day .

If you want to be able to care for the co childminders children in his/her absence for longer than 2 hours, you will need to ensure all the children are registered with each childminder as per EYFS guidance 3.80 and they would then become children on your roll. EYFS 3.85 also details what information childminders need to hold alongside EYFS 3.80

We strongly advise you refer to the EYFS statutory Framework for Childminders - Effective February 2024 for further details of your responsibilities and to ensure that your public liability insurance covers you to operate from additional premises in any of the circumstances detailed above.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Ofsted on 0300 123 1231 or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk ensure that you include your Ofsted Registration number in all communications and request a response via email for your records.

Business support

If you require support with expansion or any other business related matters please contact the Business Support Team – eybusinesssupport@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Sarah Spencer

Early Years Sufficiency and Business Manager

Please do not reply to this email as it will go to a mailbox that is not monitored. If you wish to get in touch with Gloucestershire County Council, [please see our contact us page](#).