

Do you want to become
a childcare provider?



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This leaflet is aimed at providing you with some of the essential information you need to know about registering as a childcare provider as well as some business tips for ensuring your childcare business is a success.

The Childcare Act 2006 lists three categories of childcare providers:

Childminding: Individuals looking after children on domestic premises, which is not the home of any of the children being cared for.

Childcare on domestic premises: Four or more people looking after children on domestic premises, including childminders and their assistants.

You must make sure you have planning permission for this type of childcare.

Childcare on non-domestic premises: Childcare on premises that are not used as a domestic premises. This used to be called day care. You must make sure you have planning permission for childcare.

Registration

You will need to register on:

- the Early Years Register if you intend to care for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday
- the compulsory part of the Childcare Register if you intend to care for children aged 5 – 7 years.

You can choose to register on:

- the voluntary part of the childcare register if you intend to care for children aged 8 and over.



When do you not need to register?

You do not need to register if you:

- care for any individual children for two hours or less per day even if the childcare service is open for longer than two hours
- operate for 14 days or fewer in any one year
- care for children for four hours or less per day for the convenience of the parents who remain on or are very close to the premises and where there is no long term commitment to provide care for children for example some crèches
- provide an open access scheme
- offer childcare in a hotel guest house or similar between the hours of 6pm and 2am
- provide home education
- provide no more than two types of the following activities for children aged 3 and over:
 - school study or homework support
 - performing arts
 - arts and crafts
 - sport
 - religious, cultural or language support and any care is incidental to the activities

- only care for a child or children you are related to
- if you only care for the children of one or more friends and no money or payment changes hands
- if you are a school or a academy that provides education or care for children aged 3 and over.

You do not need to register if you provide childcare at the following, as an integral part of the establishment's activities:

- children's home
- care home
- hospital, where children are looked after as patients
- residential family centre
- young offenders institution or secure training centre
- a residential holiday scheme for disabled children.

If you are unsure whether what you are intending to do requires registration please contact the Ofsted help line **0300 123 1231** or go to www.gov.uk/government/publications/factsheet-childcare-registration-not-required or the Registration Support Officer in Barnet on **020 8359 7619**.



Who can apply to become a registered childcare provider?

Ofsted is responsible for the registration and inspection of all childcare providers. The registration system uses the concept of a 'registered person'. This covers both individuals and organisations such as companies, partnerships and committees.

The registered person has overall responsibility for the provision of childcare and is legally responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements and regulations. The registered person may employ a manager to take responsibility for the day-to-day organisation of the childcare.

What documentation should I read?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the framework which links care and learning together. It is mandatory for all schools and early years providers, who care for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday.

Copies can be obtained from Foundation Years Great early years and childcare website at www.foundationyears.org.uk

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)

All local authorities have a duty to secure 'so far as is reasonably practical' sufficient childcare which meets the needs of the working parents and parents making the transition to work. The London Borough of Barnet completed an assessment in 2013, this report can be accessed by visiting www.barnet.gov.uk/csa



What should I do first?

People often launch into a business without evaluating themselves and their skills first.

You should think about:

How good are your self management and organisational skills?

How much do you understand of the business as a whole?

Do you use your time effectively?

Can you focus well or are you easily distracted?

Do you have the right skills for the type of business you want to run?

Why have you chosen to set up a childcare business?

What are the pros and cons of self employment?

You should decide:

What type of childcare you want to provide?

What area you want to provide your service in?

How will you determine if there is a need for childcare in the area you are considering?

What type of premises do you want to use?

Next steps

The Registration Support Officer can provide expertise and support on the requirements of the Childcare Act 2006, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), the different types of childcare registers, the statutory role of Ofsted and the registration process. You can book an appointment on a one to one basis, which is aimed at providing individual advice to help you make an informed decision about registering as a childcare provider.

Please contact Registration Support Officer to arrange an appointment:

tel: **020 8359 7619** email: fseibusinesssteam@barnet.gov.uk



For more information:

tel: 020 8359 7619 email: fseibusinesssteam@barnet.gov.uk
or visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/wwcib/business-support