



Childcare checklist

What to ask a childminder when considering placing your child in their care

You can take this checklist with you when you visit a prospective childminder.

The questions are a guide and you may not wish to ask them all.

About the childminder

- How long have you been a registered childminder?
- How many children are you caring for and what are their ages?
- Do you have any children of your own, and how old are they?
- Other than children, who else is in your home during the day?

Safety

- Do you transport the children in your car, and what safety restraints do you have in your car?
- Do you have appropriate insurance for childcare?
- Do you have safety equipment in your home, such as fireguards and stair gates?
- Do you have smoke alarms fitted?
- Have you ever had an emergency with a child in your care – what happened?
- What would you do in the event of an accident or emergency either to you or my child?

Pay and conditions

- What are your hours of service?
- What are your rates of pay for: hourly, daily or weekly care; before or after school care; and holiday care?
- Would you offer overnight care?
- Would you ever be prepared to work over the normal hours?
- What is your overtime fee and when would it come into effect?
- Do you need a deposit if care is not needed immediately? How much would it be?
- Is there a fee payable if you or I take a holiday?
- Is there a fee payable if you or my child is sick?
- At what stage do you ask for the contract to be signed?
- What would happen if I signed the contract and my circumstance changed, meaning that I no longer required childcare?



Activities and services

- What are your hours of service?
- Do you go out anywhere during the week (such as the park, swimming, or to the library)?
- Is there a separate resting place for my child?
- Would you provide meals and snacks?
- Are you able to meet our dietary needs?
- What toys and books are available?
- Are they available all the time?
- Can my child bring their own toys to share?
- Is there a garden that is safe for the children to play in?
- Do you have outdoor equipment available?
- Which festivals and special occasions do you celebrate and how do you celebrate them?

Discipline

- What do you consider to be unacceptable behaviour?
- How would you handle this behaviour?
- Have you, or would you, ever smack a child in your care?

Training and references

- Have you had any recent training in childcare?
- Have you recently attended a first aid course?
- Do you have any references from previous or current parents that I could see?

Please remember, not every childminder will match your child's personality, so be prepared to look around. Don't get disheartened – there's a suitable childcare setting out there for you and your child.



Search for childcare and family services on the Hampshire Family Information Directory at www.fid.hants.gov.uk