

Become a Childminder



Monmouthshire

Family Information Service

Gwasanaeth Gwybodaeth i Deuluoedd



For Further information about becoming a childminder and your first port of call, contact Rachel D'Orsey, Monmouthshire's Childcare Engagement Officer on 01633 644527/childcare@monmouthshire.gov.uk who can provide step by step details and one to one support in your journey to becoming a childminder.

What is a childminder?

A childminder is someone who carers for children that they are not related to, for more than two hours a day, for pay or reward, in the childminder's own home. It is illegal if you carry out any of these and you are not registered.

You do not have to register as a childminder if you are child's parents, a close relative, foster carers (for children they are fostering), if caring for the child in a child's home, Nannies and friends who look after children for no reward. A childminder must be registered and inspected.

The benefits of being a childminder:

The benefits of being a childminder include choosing your own flexible hours, working from your own home, being your own boss and furthering your professional development

Who can you care for?

A registered childminder can care for 10 children under 12 year olds (at any one time). Of these 10, no more than 3 children must be under full time school age. Of these 3, no more than 2 children can be under 18 months old. These numbers may be different, depending on the size of your property.

These numbers must include your own children.

You do not have to be registered to care for children over the age of 12. You should use common sense when determining how many over 12s you can look after.

Running your childminding business:

Before you begin the childminding process, you will need to start thinking about the following:

- Which days and hours you will work
- How much you will charge per hour

- Will you collect and drop off at local schools and childcare settings
- Will you accept children with additional needs?
- How will your partner and children cope with other children in your home?
- Will children in your care be safe around your pets?
- Where will you store your toys, equipment and resources?

Existing Childcare in your area:

It is important to think about what other childcare services are available in your area and to consider if there a need for more? (Search www.monfis.org.uk for details of all childminders, day care, after school care etc. that is available in Monmouthshire).

Consider the childcare gaps in your area and think about what you are able to offer that is different from other local childcare providers (overnight care, weekend care, sibling discounts etc...)? (Monmouthshire's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment at <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/childcare-sufficiency-assessment/> will provide you with this information.

The National Minimum Standards for Childcare:

All registered childminders must adhere to the National Minimum standards. This can be downloaded from <https://www.careinspectorate.wales/sites/default/files/2018-01/160411regchildcareen.pdf> . It includes details of planning, records, working with parents, well-being, food and drink, financial procedures, quality assurance, complaints, child protection, equipment, safety and more.

Who to inform:

If you live in rented accommodation, you are required to get written permission from your Landlord to show that they are happy for you to use your home as a childminding business.

If you intend to use your car for childminder pick-ups, drop-offs or activities, you must inform your car insurance company as you will need to include 'business use'.

You will need to check if your home insurance covers business use.

You may wish to contact your local Fire Safety Service for a free check of the safety equipment in your house.

Monmouthshire's Environmental Health would also like to be notified of your registration. They can provide you with useful information about preparing food, health, hygiene, fridge temperatures etc. They can be contacted on 01633 644609.

Other things to consider:

As a childminder, you will be classed as self-employed. You must register as self-employed and complete HMRC paperwork and tax returns every year. HMRC may be able to help you complete the forms. You will also be required to pay National Insurance.

Consider planning – routines for children of different ages, children's development, behaviour, meals etc. Your planning templates and guides are included in your registration start up pack.

Safety procedures must be in place, including smoke alarms, fire surrounds etc. You will be able to claim up to £100 from Monmouthshire Early Years for safety equipment.

The Childminding Process:

To become a childminder, you must:

Complete the IHC & PCP Childminding Course.

Those looking to become a registered childminder in Wales will have to hold both the Introduction to home-based childcare unit and the Preparing for childminder practice unit. Those looking to become an approved nanny in Wales will only have to hold the Introduction to home-based childcare unit.

Childminder pre-registration training package comprises of Unit 326 Introduction to home-based childcare (IHC), and Unit 327 Preparing for childminder practice (PCP).

The learner accesses self-directed online learning for all elements of the course. The learner has support from their assessor only during the course.

Childminder pre-registration training package (currently available online only):

Delivery: self-directed online training and study

Assessment: Learners will be assessed by:

Unit 326: completing a portfolio of evidence in the form of a workbook.

Unit 327: Professional discussions based on portfolio of work being completed to support registration as a childminder in Wales

Cost: £300 (£360 inc VAT) per learner. There is no time limit in which to complete this course.

The course costs £360 to complete and must be paid for by the individual.

Monmouthshire Early Years may be able to reimburse you for part or all of the course, upon registration as a childminder.

The Professional Association of Childcare and Early Years (PACEY) is the organisation who provides this course. They can be contacted on 0845 880 1299 or paceycymru@pacey.org.uk

Complete a First Aid, Food Safety and Safeguarding Certificate:

Details of the requirements for these courses and a list of training providers can be found at <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/training-for-childcare-providers/>

Obtain a GP Reference:

You are required to obtain a 'fit for work' reference from your local GP. They may be a small charge for this.

Complete the Childminder Registration Application Form:

You are required to register as a childminder with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW). To complete the online form visit <https://careinspectorate.wales/register-childcare-and-play-service>

Complete the form as fully and as accurately as possible. Any gaps may result in the application form being returned to you meaning you will go to the end of the processing queue. This includes any breaks in your dates of employment. Include any periods of time when you were not employed.

Complete a DBS check:

A DBS Check will need to be completed by any member of your household who is over the age of 16. This is regardless of any DBS checks you have in place for other roles. You will need to meet the costs of the DBS checks yourself.

You can complete your online DBS check at

<https://careinspectorate.wales/disclosure-and-barring-service-dbs-checks>

CIW Registration Visit:

After your application has been approved, CIW will arrange to visit your house for a pre-registration inspection. This will be to check your house and garden is suitable to accommodate a childminding business. CIW will check all safety procedures are in place and you have considered all the planning aspects of the process. Once registered, CIW will inspect your home every three years and will produce a report of their findings.

Apply for a PACEY Quality Start Pack:

A quality start up pack is available upon near completion as a registered childminder. The start up pack includes your first year's public liability insurance, member to PACEY for one year, a cashbook and attendance register, an accident/incident book, childminding contacts and child record forms. Monmouthshire Early Years will meet all costs for this pack.

Contact Monmouthshire Early Years at clairemorgan2@monmouthshire.gov.uk for a quality start up pack application form.

£100 Safety Equipment Grant:

Monmouthshire Early Years are also able to provide you with a safety equipment grant upon registration. This would include stair gates, fire surrounds, car seats etc.

Any purchases made during the process can be reimbursed (up to £100) upon registration. Please send receipts to clairemorgan2@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Pre-Registration Support:

Supported by Monmouthshire Early Years, PACEY Cymru is able to offer an impartial support service by telephone and email to all pre-registration childminders in Monmouthshire. If you would like any help or advice with completing your policies, procedures and applications, please contact Elinor Stafford at elinor.stafford@pacey.org.uk or call 02920 351407.

Receive your Registration Number:

After your home inspection and receipt of your start up pack, you will receive your registration number and will officially be a registered childminder. You are now able to childmind any children you may have on your waiting list or advertise your childminding service.

Inform Monmouthshire Family Information Service:

Monmouthshire Family Information Service (MonFIS) is the only service to keep a full list of all registered childcare throughout the county. CIW inform MonFIS as soon as a provider becomes registered. Please contact MonFIS on 01633 644527 or by emailing childcare@monmouthshire.gov.uk to register your details. Your service will then be promoted, along with all other childcare providers at www.monfis.org.uk and on our social media pages if appropriate. You will be asked to provide this information to MonFIS on an annual basis. Your information is also required for the annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment required by the Welsh Government.

Register with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO)

The GDPR Act 2018 requires all businesses to notify ICO if you are processing personal information electronically for the provision of childcare. This includes names, addresses, medical conditions and taking photographs of the children in your care using a digital camera. Failure to notify ICO is a criminal offence and a breach of the GDPR Act 2018). You can register at <http://ico.org.uk/> for an annual cost of £40.