

Choosing a Bristol Childminder

A guide for parents

**The benefits of home-based
childcare and how to choose
the right childminder**

Bristol Childminding Network

The heart of quality home-based childcare



Benefits of using a childminder

Choosing childcare is a big decision. You will want the most appropriate care with someone you can trust so you can easily juggle work and home life.

Childminders provide:

- ◆ Reliable and flexible care in a familiar home setting, from birth onwards
- ◆ Responsive one to one attention to your child's needs
- ◆ Play and socialisation with a small number of children
- ◆ Home-based indoor and outdoor learning
- ◆ Flexible hours and pick-ups from pre-school or school
- ◆ Family style meals
- ◆ Access to government funding for all three and four year olds and eligible two year olds.

That's why so many parents choose childminders!

How to choose a childminder

It is important to visit a number of childminders to get a feel for what they do and make comparisons. Home situations vary, but it will help you form an impression if you are able to watch the childminder playing with children. Warm interactions are essential, along with a sense that children are relaxed and having fun.

The childminder may want to meet you first, before inviting you to a meeting when children are present. You can ask questions about:

- ◆ The childminder's training and experience
- ◆ How your child would spend the day
- ◆ The number and ages of the children who would be with your child
- ◆ Who else would be in the house
- ◆ How your child would be settled in
- ◆ How the childminder manages behaviour
- ◆ The plan if the childminder is unwell

Trust your instincts!



A few facts

All Childminders:

- Must be registered with Ofsted and display their certificate
- Work in their own home, caring for up to six children under eight, only three of which can be under five years of age
- Have an Enhanced Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) check. Ofsted makes a decision about the childminder's suitability and makes checks on other adults in the house
- Must attend Paediatric First Aid training every three years
- Offer different skills and qualifications, but must have completed a childminder training course
- Must work to the standards of quality care and education which are laid down in the Early Years Foundation Stage
- Are inspected and graded by Ofsted.
- Have public liability insurance
- Keep records, including observations of children's learning



A professional service

As well as meeting the childminder at home, you can look for other reassurances

- ◆ The childminder may show you a commendation from another parent
- ◆ With the childminder's registration reference number you can read the most recent Ofsted inspection report online www.reports.ofsted.gov.uk

Childminders are inspected by Ofsted and graded 1-4. The minimum expected standard of education and care is 'Good', grade 2.

As the regulator for childcare providers Ofsted also deals with complaints:

Tel: **0300 123 4666**

Childminders access professional development through the Bristol Childminding Network.



How do I find a Bristol childminder?

Contact the Family Information Service for a list of childminders in your area:

E: askcyps@bristol.gov.uk

T: **0117 357 4192**

www.bristol.gov.uk/fis



If you would like this information in a different format, for example, Braille, audio CD, large print, electronic, BSL, DVD or community languages, please contact the Family Information Service.

www.bristol.gov.uk/fis