WHAT IS A CHILDMINDER?

Childminders are self-employed and registered by Ofsted to care for other people's children in their own home. A childminder must comply with standards, which represent a baseline of quality below which no provider may fall. In addition to this a childminder also has to be police checked and have passed a first aid course and child protection training.

Childminders can offer registered full-time, part-time and flexible day care for children between 0 and 8 years and may also care for older children. They may be willing to take and collect from pre-school, nursery and school and to care for school aged children in the holidays. Some childminders offer overnight care and some can offer specialist care for children with additional needs.

Each childminder will be responsible for a maximum of 6 children aged under 8, no more than 3 of whom will be under 5 and with only one child being under the age of 12 months. The childminder’s own children are included in these ratios.