**New legislation means Childminders have more flexibility**

From the 1st January 2016, childminders can work in a more flexible way giving more opportunities to expand or open new provision on non-domestic premises without completing further applications.

**What does this mean for childminders?**

As from the 1st January Ofsted will transfer multiple registrations already in place automatically to a single registration. If childminders wish to register additional settings, this can be completed under the registration that has already been applied. For example: any childminder who decides to open extended school settings such as a breakfast/afterschool club on school premises can do so under the new legislation.

All childcare providers considering operating on non-domestic premises must continue to meet the standards and requirements set out in the **‘Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework’**

**Points to consider before registration;**

* Childminders must have permission to operate from non-domestic premises with Ofsted before they carry out any childcare.
* Ofsted may not be required to visit any setting if they are confident the registered provider is suitable and are satisfied the premises meet with current standards set.
* All childminders must have appropriate **Public Liability insurance** in place before operating on any premises.
* Ofsted fees apply to each premises used and must be paid annually.

**Systems that should be in place;**

* Any premises used must be made safe and secure (as outlined in the EYFS and Childcare Register)
* Childminders must ensure staff to child ratios are maintained (as outlined in the EYFS) Childminders who work within an after school or holiday club can register together.
* Childminders must be able to provide evidence of what hours they work on each of the premises, this evidence must demonstrate that the work carried out does not exceed more than half the week on non-domestic premises.
* Within the new guidance, childminders will have their own settings inspected in the same way. Ofsted will undertake a percentage of inspections within other settings. If Ofsted have any concerns with management of any setting, they have authority to close down individual and/or whole group settings.
* You should ensure you are aware of any local conditions that may apply and seek further advice with your local authority for example; ‘planning permission and ‘food hygiene registration’.

**Some points to consider if you want to?**

If you want to consider operating away from your childminding premises for more than half your time you must re-register with Ofsted under the ‘Childcare on non-domestic premises’ section.

* If you are considering running an after school club, leaving your childminding assistant to take charge of your childminding provision? It is very important that you follow the guidelines set within the **‘Early Years and Childcare Registration Handbook’** to ensure you meet the requirements set out. Assistant childminders are only permitted to work solely for up to two hours per day; also appropriate registration must be accessible.
* If you want to manage a holiday club for more than half of the week you will be required to employ additional staffing to cover additional hours. Ofsted would also want to see evidence to demonstrate how those hours are managed in your absence.
* If you are considering setting up an after school club but your normal hours of working as a childminder would affect the additional hours you can work? Ofsted have not yet clarified the outcome for this situation, you should seek further advice before undertaking additional hours that would overstretch your hours.

The supporting document ‘**Early years and childcare registration handbook**’ gives guidance for the registration of early years and childcare provision in England, under the Childcare Act 2006, and its associated regulations.  This document includes requirements set for childcare provided by childminders and home childcarers, this document can be found at **the childminding cafe** website.

The new measures outlined in the Childminder registration links with the **Small Business Enterprise and Employment Act 2015** and within Section 76 states “childminders are able to operate on non-domestic premises as well as domestic premises”. This supporting document can be found at: [www.gov.uk/government/news/childcare-measures-small-business-enterprise-employment-act](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/childcare-measures-small-business-enterprise-employment-act)

Thanks for reading,

Donna