February 16th, 2016

**Childcare regulations and inspection of childcare & play are changing…..again from April 2016 in Wales**

**Introduction**

The Welsh government have announced changes that will come into effect from April 2016. As from April 2016, the registration of childcare provision will be extended from age 8 to 12 years.

**Regulations and National Minimum Standards: Child Minders**

These regulations outline what child care providers in Wales must do by law to provide a care service. Existing legislation listed below will have been updated to reflect the changes to childcare regulations.

* [The Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2010/2574/contents/made)
* [The Child Minding and Day Care (Inspection and Information for Local Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2010](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2010/2575/contents/made)
* [The Child Minding and Day Care Exceptions (Wales) Order 2010](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2010/2839/contents/made)
* [The Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 (Commencement No.2, Saving and Transitional Provisions) (Amendment) and (Consequential Amendment) Order 2011](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/577/contents/made)
* [Care Standards Act 2000 (Notification) (Wales) Regulations 2011](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/105/made)
* [Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2010/1/contents)
* [The Child Minding and Day Care (Disqualification) (Wales) Regulations 2010](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2010/1703/contents/made)

**The proposed changes that will be made from April 2016**

Here we summarise the proposed changes, picking out the parts that we feel are most relevant, and putting forward our understanding of what it will mean in practice. Please take a look at the entire document, available to download from our [DfE & Ofsted page](http://www.thechildmindingcafe.co.uk/cafe-resources/dfe_ofsted_documents/), for the full story.

1. **The upper age limit for registration of childcare provision will be extended from 8 to 12 years. If you are registered with the CSSIW you should have received information from these to inform you of such changes.**
2. **Revision to NMS:**
   * Ratios childminders 1:10 (up to age 12)
   * Open access play new ratio for 8 to 12 years will be set in April 2016
3. **As from April 2016 the CSSIW will undertake inspections following the guidelines set in the new Inspection Framework for 0 to 12 years. The aim of the inspection has four core themes in order to improve child development and wellbeing outcomes.**

The four core themes are:

* + Wellbeing
  + Care and development
  + Environment
  + Leadership and Management

1. **Childminders can now choose to have their inspection reports published on CSSIW’s website, this in return can improve your marketing strategies to promote your business. Please note this is a voluntary choice, therefore childminders who do not want to publish their details on the internet can opt out.**
2. **Exceptions from registration – under 2 hours**

**What these changes to childcare regulations mean for childminders?**

If childminders provide unregulated childcare or play for more than two hours they must register with CSSIW by April 2016

Childminders can provide care for a maximum of 10 children under the age of 12 years. However, this ratio must include those children of their own and any other children you may care for that you do not take payment for.

Childminders must consider the space availability for children within their settings and any planning restrictions to ensure any changes do not impact on ratios.

Childminders who are caring for children on multiple premises should request further information to ensure any action necessary is taken dependant on the type of setting you run.

**What childminders need to do to prepare for these changes?**

Childminders should complete the updated version of the application for variation that should have already been sent by the CSSIW. **You must respond and complete the application form to vary your conditions within 28 days of receiving the CSSIW letter**. We suggest you **Revise** relevant documentation you hold to ensure it is up to date and relevant. These include:

* + A valid Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate (including those who work and/or live on the premises
  + Have a valid Public Liability Insurance Document that provides cover from the 1st April 2016 for all the age range of children you care for
  + If you are caring for children 8 years and over, have you got a relevant First Aid certificate that covers children from birth to puberty. ( You can check with your current provider to ensure you have appropriate cover)
  + If you are planning to provide care for children between 8 and 12 years old you should check relevant policies and procedures and amend to meet with national standards such as;

Child Protection

Behaviour management

Complaints procedures

Your current floor plan and how areas will meet the age ratios and number of children you care for.

Once you have informed CSSIW how many children you care for, if you would like to increase your numbers and any other changes. The CSSIW will take necessary steps to remove current and replace new conditions that will allow you to care for children up to 12 years and reflect changes in the NMS.

**Childminders who do not** wish to **increase their numbers** and have no objection to new conditions set in the letter provided by CSSIW (the maximum number of children you can care for) you **are not required to respond** and will be sent a revised certificate of registration which will reflect the new conditions and permit you to care for children

Thanks for reading,

Donna

*Source used:*

[*http://cssiw.org.uk/docs/cssiw/publications/120309regchildcareen.pdf*](http://cssiw.org.uk/docs/cssiw/publications/120309regchildcareen.pdf)

<http://cssiw.org.uk/providingacareservice/regs-nms/child-minder/?lang=en>

<http://cssiw.org.uk/docs/cssiw/general/151202childframeworken.pdf>