



Group provision: childcare on domestic and childcare on non-domestic

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Pre-registration briefing





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A **childcare on domestic** provider is a group of 5 or more individuals providing or assisting with the provision of childcare in someone's home. They look after at least 1 child for more than 2 hours a day and receive payment. They can also work some of their time from approved non-domestic premises if they choose to. Childcare on domestic providers can register with Ofsted or a childminding agency.





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A **childcare on non-domestic** provider is a type of group provision that can only operate from non-domestic premises. They look after at least 1 child for more than 2 hours a day, for more than 14 days in a year, and receive payment. Childcare on non-domestic providers can only register with Ofsted.



The Department for Education (DfE) introduced flexibilities on 1 November 2024:



The total number of people who can work together under a childminder's registration is 4. This includes other childminders (often known as co-childminders) and assistants.



When 5 or more people work together to provide or assist with childcare in a domestic setting, the provision is classified as 'childcare on domestic premises.' This is considered as a type of group provision.



Childminders and childcare on domestic premises have flexibility to spend more time operating outside of domestic premises, such as at a community hall or school, removing the previous 50% limit.



Childcare providers have the option to register as childminders without domestic premises, who can work entirely from non-domestic premises such as a village hall.





Roles and responsibilities



Local authorities' role

The Childcare Act 2006 sets out a list of duties for local authorities:

- to make sure there is sufficient childcare in their area for working parents
- to make sure there is sufficient government-funded childcare for parents who are entitled to it
- to provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents
- to publish certain information to help with finding childcare
- to provide information, advice and training to childcare providers





Ofsted's role

- Ofsted must register applicants, if they meet the requirements for registration and are not disqualified from caring for children
- If necessary, Ofsted will take action to ensure registered providers continue to comply with the requirements of registration
- If providers fail to meet or fully meet specific requirements at inspection, Ofsted will give them actions to help them improve
- If there are serious concerns, Ofsted may take other enforcement action to prevent risks to children, such as suspending or cancelling a provider's registration





The role of childminder agencies

- The Children and Families Act 2014 enabled childcare providers to register with Ofsted **or** a [childminder agency](#) (CMA)
- CMAs register and regulate childminders, childminders without domestic premises, and providers offering **childcare on domestic premises**
- CMAs help providers with training, business support, advice and finding parents. Parents can use CMAs to find childcare
- Providers registered with an agency receive 1 quality assurance visit each year. Ofsted then inspects CMAs at intervals [set by the Department for Education](#)



Childcare provider's role

- Once registered, childcare providers must meet, and continue to meet, the requirements of their registration at all times. This applies even when a provider is not caring for children
- Providers must also notify Ofsted of any [significant events](#), and of any [changes to people living or working where childcare takes place](#). They must also [keep their details up to date](#)
- Providers must work closely with parents and other agencies, such as the local authority





Legal requirements

Can I register?

You must:

- have the right to work in the UK
- be suitable to work with children
- be physically and mentally capable of caring for children



Who is required to register

You must register with Ofsted or with a [childminder agency](#) (childcare on domestic premises only) if you are paid to look after children under 8 for more than 2 hours a day in a domestic dwelling and/or a non-domestic premises.

You could be prosecuted if you are not registered, and you provide childcare services that must be registered.



Disqualification

You are disqualified from registration if:

- you have been convicted of a disqualifiable offence or are barred from working with children
- you have been refused registration from Ofsted before
- you have been made subject to an order or determination removing a child from your care or preventing a child from living with you
- your registration has been cancelled for a reason other than not paying your annual fee

Disqualification by association

If applying to be a **childcare on domestic premises provider**, you are **disqualified by association** if:

- you live in the same premises as another person who is disqualified

or

- you live in a household where a disqualified person is employed

Registration exemptions

Not all people who care for children are required to register with Ofsted or a childminding agency. For example, a childcare provider is exempt if they care for an individual child for less than 2 hours per day.

Ofsted's [exemption from registration guidance](#) sets out:

- when you must register
- when you cannot register
- when you do not have to register but choose to
- how to contact Ofsted about an exemption for temporary provision



Examples of registration exemptions

- Looking after children aged 8 or over
- Looking after children for fewer than 2 hours a day
- Caring for children as the children's parent, step-parent, foster parent or relative (such as a grandparent) – relatives also include half-siblings and people related by marriage or civil partnerships



Further examples of registration exemptions

- Looking after children of a friend or multiple friends for less than 3 hours a day for some payment
- Babysitting (looking after children at home between 6pm and 2am)
- Provision during home education – where a person (who is not the parent) is (wholly or partly) educating a child, who is of compulsory school age and is receiving full-time education otherwise than at a school, and any childcare made is incidental to the home education. For example, caring for the child during lunchtime



Choosing the right registration



Which register to join

Early Years Register

Looking after children from birth to 31 August after their 5th birthday

- **Compulsory part of the Childcare Register**

Looking after children aged five up to their 8th birthday

- **Voluntary part of the Childcare Register**

Caring for children aged eight and over
or

If you do not need to register by law, you can still choose to register on the voluntary part of the Childcare register

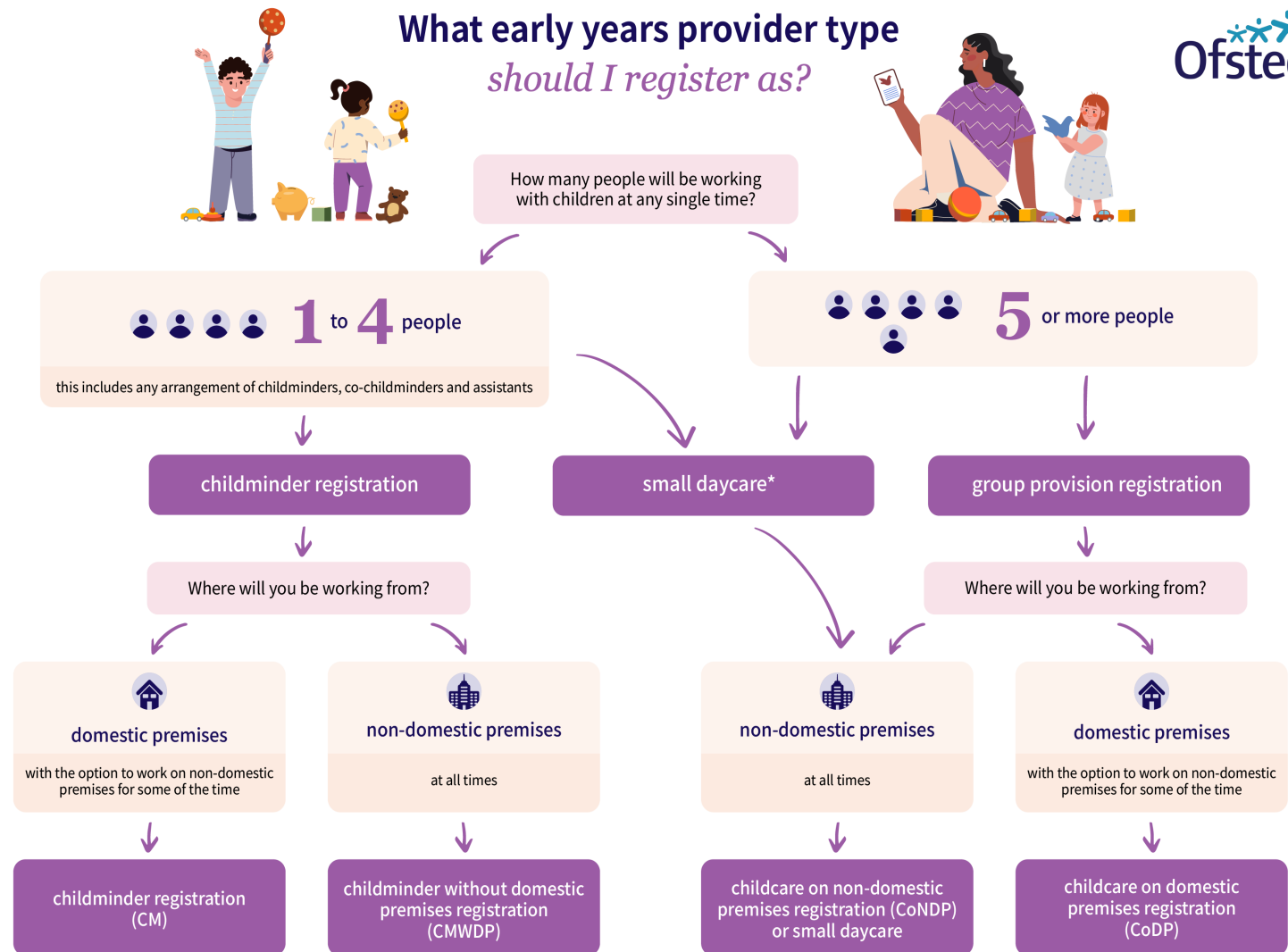


Choosing the right registration – CoDP or CoNDP

	Childcare on domestic premises (CoDP)	Childcare on non-domestic premises (CoNDP)
Can I work from domestic and approved non-domestic premises?	Yes. You can work most of your time from Ofsted approved non-domestic premises, as long as you spend some of your time working from your domestic premises.	No. You can only work from Ofsted approved non-domestic premises. You cannot work from any domestic premises at any time.
How many people can provide childcare?	There must be at least 5 people providing or assisting with the provision of childcare.	There can be any number of people providing childcare if they meet the relevant requirements.
Will I need an enhanced DBS check with barred lists?	Yes, everyone caring for children will need an enhanced DBS check with barred lists. This will need to be a home-based check.	Yes, all people who make up the 'registered person' and anyone working directly with children, will need an enhanced DBS check with barred lists. This will not need to be a home-based check.
Do household members require DBS checks?	Yes, anyone aged 16 or over living or working in the home where the childcare is provided will also need to apply for an enhanced DBS check with barred lists.	No. Ofsted will only request checks from those people who make up the 'registered person'.
Do I need to follow requirements of school- and group-based EYFS?	Yes (if applying to be on the Early Years Register).	

Choosing the right registration

- This flow-chart shows the different options for registering with Ofsted, depending on the number of people providing childcare and where the childcare takes place



*there is no minimum number of staff in a small daycare

The 'registered person'

The registered person will be an individual or an organisation that is registered to provide childcare. This means that for:

- an individual owner of a daycare – the individual owner will be the registered person
- a daycare organisation owned by a company or group – the company or group will be the registered person
- a school with one of the [allowed daycare types](#) – the group of individuals who run the school, for example the board of governors, will be the registered person

The 'nominated individual'

The 'nominated individual' will usually complete the application for schools or daycare organisations owned by a company or group. To be the nominated individual of a group, you must be one of the registered individuals who is chosen to represent them and the daycare with Ofsted.

To be the nominated individual of a daycare organisation owned by a company or group with:

- the sole or main purpose to provide childcare, you must be a member of the organisation's governing body
- a different purpose than providing childcare, you must be the most senior person in the organisation with direct responsibility for childcare



Childcare on domestic premises (CoDP)

- Childcare on domestic premises is group provision, and must follow the [group and school-based early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) framework \(pdf\)](#) if registered on the Early Years Register
- Ofsted or a childminding agency will need to check all household members, and everyone living and working in the house
- It is also the provider's responsibility to ensure that anyone who lives or works on the childcare premises are suitable to work or be in contact with children





Childcare on non-domestic premises (CoNDP)

- Childcare on non-domestic premises operates from any non-domestic premises that are not someone's home – for example, a community hall or a purpose-built nursery
- If you register as an organisation, you must appoint a nominated individual. This individual will liaise with Ofsted and is responsible for the registration
- Ofsted does not carry out checks on staff members, including the manager
- It is your responsibility to ensure that all staff members, and other people living or working on the premises, are suitable to work with children





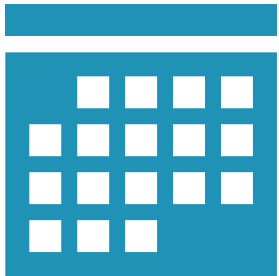
Application and Registration



Registration timescales

- 12 weeks – Early Years Register applications and Childcare Register applications

Approval of additional premises is usually quicker, depending on whether additional checks are needed.



Application and registration process



Disclosure &
Barring Service

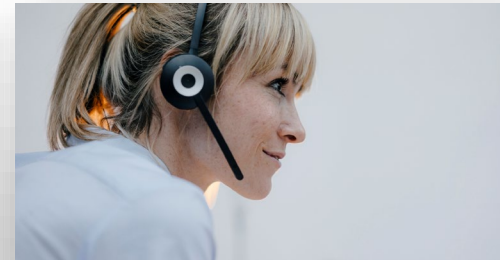
Before you apply

You need to consider what checks will be needed to support your application. You may need to consider training and will need to choose a premises.



Application stage

You must decide which application form to submit based on the type of provision you want to register. Choose which registers you need. Check who needs to complete a connecting application form.



Application review

We call at the start of the process to schedule the visit. This call helps set expectations for you and us about what to expect during the registration process.



Registration or refusal

We will visit the premises to determine your suitability to be registered. We do not routinely visit the premises if you are only applying for an additional setting.



Before you apply – DBS checks

- Apply for your DBS check via OfstedDBSApplication.co.uk
- The cost for each check is set by the [Disclosure and Barring service](#)

Each person connected with your application must have received their completed DBS check before applying to Ofsted. You can't apply without a DBS check.



Before you apply – DBS update service

Ofsted strongly recommends joining the [DBS update service](#). The DBS sets the fees for this.

You must register for the Update Service **within 30 days** of the certificate being issued.

If you are not on the DBS update service, we cannot accept Ofsted DBS checks older than **three months**, or checks obtained via a different organisation.

We may be able to accept existing certificates if you are signed up to the update service and:

- the DBS is an enhanced certificate for a childcare role
- the certificate is for a home-based role



Before you apply – other certificates

Early Years Register:

- At least one person must have a current paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate. They must be on the premises and available at all times when children are present, and must accompany children on outings
- The lead practitioner must attend a child protection training course



Before you apply – other certificates

Compulsory part of the **Childcare Register** only:

- Make sure that at least one person who is caring for the children has an appropriate first-aid qualification
- Make sure that a person (provider, manager or person who works for the provider) is designated to attend child protection training

Voluntary part of the **Childcare Register** only:

- At least one person who is caring for the children has an appropriate first-aid qualification
- Make sure that at least one person who is caring for children on the premises has a minimum level 2 qualification in an area of work relevant to the childcare provided, **OR** training in the [common core skills](#)



Before you apply – other requirements

This requirement is only applicable only for the CoDP on the Early Years Register

- If applying to be a manager of a childcare on domestic premises provider, complete a [health declaration form](#), signed by you and your GP. GPs set their own fee for signing the health declaration form and you should factor in costs for this



Application stage – costs

We will issue you an invoice for your fees, once we have completed checks on your application. It costs:

Register	Cost
Early Years Register only	£220
Early Years Register and Childcare Register	£220
Childcare Register only	£114

Registration fees are paid annually.

Application stage – completing your form

- You will need to provide an email address and mobile number. An email will be sent to you with a link to access the registration service
- You will be able to leave the form part way through if you need to. When you return to complete the form, a five-digit verification code will be sent to the mobile number you provided. You will need to enter this code to access your application

Read the relevant guidance in full before applying:

[Childcare on domestic premises](#)

[Childcare on non-domestic premises](#)



Application review – calling all applicants

Ofsted calls all applicants to make sure we have all the information we need.

Sometimes we need to return your application form, either because information is missing or incorrect. We will explain what you need to do before resubmitting your form.

Please remember to submit the application back to us. We cannot start reviewing it without all the correct information.

The registration timescales begin **once we have accepted your application.**



Application review stage – accepting and reviewing

- Ofsted will acknowledge receipt of your application by email after your complete application form is received
- If you have applied to the Early Years Register, Ofsted will book a time for a registration visit at the start of the process. This visit will usually be 8 weeks after we accept your application
- We will keep you updated every 2 weeks on the progress of your application and will let you know if we need any further information from you



The registration visit – checking your suitability

The inspector will check:

- your identity
- your suitability to provide childcare
- your understanding of the ages and numbers of children you can care for
- documents about your car (if applicable), qualifications and first aid
- suitability of your premises and equipment
- your understanding of risk assessment, safety and security
- your understanding of the [EYFS](#) and [Childcare Register requirements](#)
- that you speak English well enough to teach children and keep records in English



The registration visit – checking your suitability

- A decision will be made either at the visit or after the visit has ended and the inspector will tell you whether they will recommend you '**suitable**' or '**not suitable**' for registration
- If you do change your mind and decide you do not want to pursue your application, you can **withdraw** up until the point of our decision to register or refuse your application. You will be able to apply again in the future but will need to pay a new application fee. Application fees cannot be refunded
- We know people can find discussing their suitability a worrying time. Inspectors will take all reasonable steps to **prevent undue anxiety and to minimise stress** during the registration visit. You can always contact Ofsted if you have concerns that cannot be resolved with the inspector
- The safety and well-being of children will always be our priority, so it is important that we ensure those working with children have the right knowledge and skills



Inspection

Inspection of providers on the Early Years Register

- Ofsted is required to inspect all providers at intervals [set by the Secretary of State for Education](#)
- Under these arrangements we will inspect all providers on the Early Years Register in a 4-year window from the date of their last inspection
- The 4-year inspection window will be introduced from April 2026 and phased in over 4 years, with full implementation expected by March 2030
- Newly registered providers will usually be inspected within 18 months of their registration date
- You can find all our information about inspection in our [collection of guidance documents](#).



Inspection of providers on the Childcare Register

- Childcare Register inspections are a **compliance check** to make sure providers are meeting the ongoing requirements for registration
- Ofsted inspects 10% of all providers on the register each year, on a proportionate and risk basis, rather than following a prescribed inspection cycle
- Our guidance on [carrying out Childcare Register inspections](#) sets out the full inspection process





Resources



Help and support

Your local authority can help you with advice and support throughout the registration process. You may also wish to contact:

- your local authority environmental health department, to make sure you comply with food safety regulations and other legislation
- your local fire safety officer, to make sure you comply with fire safety regulations
- your local planning authority, to make sure you have planning permission for childcare
- your local building control department, with regard to building work undertaken

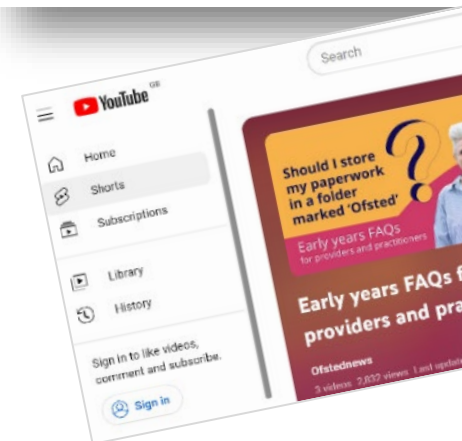


Further guidance:

[Early years and childcare registration](#)

[Early years and childcare regulation](#)

[Ofsted inspections of early years and childcare providers](#)



Watch Ofsted's videos [explaining each new flexibility](#) available from 1 November 2024:



New changes for childminders and childcare on domestic premises providers

Ofstednews



What is a childminder without domestic premises? | Childcare reforms 2024

Ofstednews



Working from non-domestic premises – removing the 50% limit | Childcare reforms 2024

Ofstednews



Further flexibility for childminders | Childcare reforms 2024

Ofstednews



Updates for currently registered childcare on domestic premises providers | Childcare reforms 2024

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Thank you

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