

Frequently Asked Questions about Becoming a Registered Childminder in Bury

1. What is a childminder?

Registered Childminders are childcare professionals working in their own homes to provide care and education in a home setting. They can look after one or more children under the age of 8 for more than a total of two hours per day. They are inspected by the Office for Standards in Education (OfSTED – the body that inspects childcare in England) to ensure they provide a safe and stimulating environment for the children that they care for.

Registered childminders are usually self-employed and run their own business. Some childminders may employ childminding assistants.

Registered childminders maybe able to access Government funding to provide Early Education and Childcare (EEC) for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. Please visit the [Nursery Education \(Free\)](#) page for further information.

2. What training do I need to do?

Please see the *Requirements & Training to Become a Childminder in Bury* document

3. I already have relevant knowledge, experience and qualifications from my previous job as a Nursery Nurse/Teacher/Playworker/Childcare Manager etc. Do I still need to do the required training?

Your knowledge and experience will be very valuable however, providing childcare in a home environment requires some additional skills and knowledge. Regardless of any previous experience and training you will still need to ensure that you have completed the requirements and training to become a childminder in Bury as referred to in the *Requirements & Training to Become a Childminder in Bury* document. This means having a Level 3 qualification in an appropriate subject area.

4. How long does it take to become a Childminder?

This will vary from person to person depending on the method of study and how quickly you complete the required training and requirements

5. Can men become registered Childminders?

Yes. We are keen to encourage men into the childcare profession. Please follow the same registration process.

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6. How do I become registered?

Please see the *Step by Step Guide to Becoming an OfSTED Registered Childminder in Bury* document

7. Is it expensive to get started?

As with starting any professional business there are additional costs. Please see *Associated Costs with Becoming a Childminder in Bury* document

8. Can I get financial help?

You may have heard that there are grants/funding available towards the costs of setting up your childminding business, unfortunately there are no grants/funding available in Bury however; a Childcare Business Grant is available to encourage and support the starting up of a new childcare business in England by providing a grant for new childminding businesses. For further information and relevant criteria please visit the website at <http://www.gov.uk/childcare-business-grants> or telephone 0844 2642546

9. How much should I charge for a childcare place?

It will be up to you to set your fees. Before you decide on how much to charge for a place it is a good idea to do some research to find out what other local childminders and childcare providers charge. Please visit the [Childcare & Children's Centres](#) section on [The Bury Directory](#) for details of childcare providers.

10. How many children can I look after?

The safeguarding and welfare requirements for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) state that you can have up to a maximum of 6 children under 8 years old, no more than three of these can be under the age of 5. Your own children will be included in these numbers. You will be advised of exact numbers during the registration process – see the EYFS Statutory Framework 3.41, 3.42 & 3.43

11. How old do you need to be to become a childminder?

You need to be aged at least 18

12. Will I need to have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check

Yes, this will be part of the application process for applying for registration and all people over the age of 16 years and who are regularly in your home must also have a DBS check (this includes members of your family).

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13. I don't own my own house. Can I still register as a childminder?

Yes, as long as you get permission from the landlord/housing association to allow you to do this.

14. Do I have to live in a big house?

No you don't need to have a big house and/or garden to become a childminder however, there are some requirements regarding space per number of children.

15. I've been told I will need special insurance is that right?

Yes, you will need Public Liability Insurance. You should also ensure your own house and contents insurer know that you are running a business from home as some do not charge an excess, however some do. If you plan to use your car for carrying the minded children then you should also tell that insurer too as you need special business class insurance

16. I was previously a Childminder but resigned. Do I have to attend the training again?

Yes, you will need to complete all training as referred to in the ***Requirements & Training to Become a Childminder in Bury*** document.

17. I have a question that hasn't been answered by any of the above. What should I do?

Please e-mail your name and details of your query to the Early Years Advisors eya@bury.gov.uk