

Children with additional needs

- We offer childminders access to specialised training and support for working with children with additional needs.
- Our co-ordinators can liaise with parents to provide advice and help match them with a suitable childminder.
- We can offer a small amount of top-up funding which will allow the childminder to restrict their numbers in order to provide a more specialised and individual service where it is needed.

Parent comments

"...she is very professional, great at entertaining children and promoting learning in a fun and happy environment."

"I never imagined that we would find such a wonderful childminder for our daughter, she excels in all areas."

"...she comes home jolly having had a busy stimulating day."

Family Information Service
For **FREE** information on childcare services
Call **020 8831 6298**

Lucy Chester Childminding Network Co-ordinator
07985 156502
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London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Childminding Network

Quality Assurance Scheme



Committed to Quality

Information for parents and childminders about
the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Childminding Network



What is childminding?

Registered childminders work in their own homes providing flexible care and education for children of different ages, in small groups. All childminders adhere to strict guidelines and must:

- Register with Ofsted
- Complete a Criminal Records Bureau check for themselves and any members of their household over the age of 16.
- Follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework
- Have completed an Introduction to Childminding Practice Course
- Have their home and garden inspected regularly
- Hold a current First Aid Certificate
- Complete a health check.



What is a childminding network?

A National Childminding Association (NCMA) Children Come First childminding network is made up of a group of registered childminders who are supported by a network co-ordinator. The NCMA monitors the services offered by networks in partnership with the Department for Children, Schools and Families and Ofsted.

Before a childminder can join the network they are assessed by a co-ordinator to make sure they meet the NCMA Children Come First quality standards.

If accepted on to the network, the network co-ordinator will continue to visit them regularly to make sure they continue to meet these standards and to help the childminder identify how they can improve their service even further through professional development.

The Richmond Borough childminding network

The Richmond Borough Childminding Network is approved by the National Childminding Association Children Come First quality assurance scheme. The network co-ordinators are members of the Early Years and Childcare Team and are employed by the local authority.

All network childminders

- Are visited by their co-ordinator a minimum of three times a year for one-to-one support. One visit a year is unannounced.
- Are expected to attend a minimum of 18 hours training a year and have a commitment to continuous professional development
- Are expected to have, or be working towards, a relevant Level 3 qualification
- Have access to an equipment and resources loan scheme, which includes large equipment and resources to cover all areas of learning.
- Meet regularly as a group to share good practice and enhance their service.

Parents also have access to the services of the co-ordinator, for advice and support.

Other services provided by the Network

Nursery education (NE) places

- As an approved Children Come First Network, our accredited childminders can provide NE places for children aged 3 and 4 years allowing parents to access the Nursery Education Grant.
- Childminders who wish to become accredited undergo further assessment and an audit of provision.
- All children are encouraged to learn through play and real life situations, making learning fun. They learn at their own pace and benefit from a more personalised approach.

