

Registration not required

A childcare factsheet

The Childcare Act 2006 says childcare is 'any form of care for a child including education or any other supervised activity'.

Most childcare providers caring for children under eight years old must register with Ofsted unless the law says they do not need to.

We register childcare providers on the following two registers.

- The Early Years Register
- The Childcare Register

Introductory reading is in *Registering childcare providers from September 2008*, which is on our website (www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080043).

Introduction

This factsheet explains the types of childcare that do not need to register with us.

If you do not need to register with us because you are exempt from doing so, you may still choose to do so by joining the voluntary part of the Childcare Register as long as you meet the requirements of registration.

If you want more information on registration, visit our website (www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Care-and-local-services/Childcare) or call us on 08456 404040. (Please call if you are not sure if you need to register.)

The next section shows the cases when you don't need to register. When you contact us, use a number from the table below to tell us which one you think applies to you.

You do not have to register with us in the following cases.

1	If you care for children who are aged eight and over.
2	If you provide care where a child does not stay with you for more than two hours a day, even if your childcare service is open for longer than two hours.
3	If you only care for a child or children aged under eight who you are related to. A relative means a grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother or sister of a child (or half-brother or sister) or someone you are related to through marriage or civil partnership.
4	If you care for children aged under eight on domestic premises as a childminder without receiving any payment or reward for your services. Domestic premises can be your own home or someone else's home.
5	If you are a foster carer for the children.
6	If you provide care for children in their own home. This includes caring for children of up to two sets of parents completely or mainly in one or both sets of parents' homes. However, you need to register as a childminder if you look after the children of three sets of parents in any or all of the parents' homes.
7	If you only provide care between 6pm and 2am on domestic premises (babysitting arrangements). Domestic premises can be your own home or someone else's home.
8	If you are providing a home-education arrangement where a child of school age receives full-time education outside school, and is partly or completely taught by a person other than a parent of the child. Care provided to the child is incidental to (not the main focus of) the education offered.
9	<p>If you provide no more than two activities from the following list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ School study support or homework support ■ Sport ■ Performing arts ■ Arts and crafts ■ Religious, cultural or language study <p>This only applies if you care for children who are aged three and over, and you do not care for children aged under five for more than four hours in any one day. Any care provided is incidental (not the main focus of) to the provision.</p>
10	<p>If you provide care as part of your organisation's activities in any of the following places.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A children's home ■ A care home ■ A hospital in which a child is a patient

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A residential family centre ■ A young offenders institution or secure training centre
11	If you are a school that provides education or care for children aged three and over, where at least one child being cared for is a pupil of the school. Children who are two years old when they start school but are three by the end of their first term at school (known as rising threes), may count as age three when deciding whether you need to register.
12	If you care for children under eight for four hours or less each day and the care is for the convenience of parents who plan to stay on the premises where you are providing care or within the immediate area. This type of provision has no long-term commitment to provide care for children – for example, a shoppers' crèche, a crèche attached to a sports centre or adult learning centre, or an exhibition – and covers services where children do not necessarily attend every day.
13	<p>If you provide an open access scheme for children. An open access scheme allows children not in the early years age group (see note 1 below) to leave on their own. Childminders are not allowed to provide an open access scheme.</p> <p>1 The early years age group is children aged from birth until the 31 August following their fifth birthday who go to early years settings that deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage.</p>
14	If you care for children under eight from specific premises for 14 days or less in any year, and you let us know in writing at least 14 days before starting the service.
15	If you care for children between 6pm and 2am in hotels, guest houses or similar places. The care is for children of no more than two different clients, staying at the same place at the same time (babysitting arrangements).

More information from Ofsted

There is more information about registration on our website (www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Care-and-local-services/Childcare). If you are not sure whether you have to register for childcare on domestic premises, please contact us on 08456 404040.

There is more information on the requirements for registration on the Early Years Register in the *Guide to registration on the Early Years Register: childcare providers on non-domestic or domestic premises* (www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080017) and on the Childcare Register in the *Guide to registration on the Childcare Register* (www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080032).

The law that sets out our responsibilities is the Childcare Act 2006 and linked regulations. The specific order setting out exemptions from compulsory registration is the Childcare (Exemptions from Registration) Order 2008 (2008 No. 979) (www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20080979_en_1). The references to regulations and our policy on registration and inspection are included in our *Framework for the*

regulation of those on the Early Years and Childcare Registers
(www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080024).

Further information

Your local family information service (FIS) will help you. You can get their contact details from

www.familyinformationservices.org.uk/index.php?option=com_comprofiler&task=userslist&listid=7&Itemid=72, or from your telephone directory.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects registered childcare and children's social care, including adoption and fostering agencies, residential schools, family centres and homes for children. It also inspects all state-maintained schools, non-association independent schools, pupil referral units, further education, initial teacher education, and publicly funded adult skills and employment-based training, the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), and the overall level of services for children in local authority areas.

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