

EYFS statutory framework for childminders: Effective: 1 September 2025

Audit of **musts** to be used in conjunction with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2025. Please refer to the EYFS Statutory Framework document when completing this audit. [EYFS statutory framework for childminders](#)

The learning and development requirements are in Section 1, the assessment requirements are in Section 2, and the safeguarding and welfare requirements are in Section 3 of this framework. This framework uses the word **“must”** where the requirement is mandatory. Some of the items in the framework provide information that childminders **“should”** take into account when delivering the requirements and **should** not ignore them without a good reason.

	Section 1 – The learning and development requirements	Checked
1.1	This section defines what childminders must do, working in partnership with parents and/or carers, to promote the learning and development of all children in their care, and to ensure their early years’ experience contributes positively to their brain development and readiness for Key Stage 1... Childminders must guide the development of children’s capabilities to help ensure that children in their care will fully benefit from future opportunities.	
1.2	The EYFS learning and development requirements for childminders are made up of the seven areas of learning and development, as set out in the educational programmes ...	
	The areas of learning and development	Checked
1.3	There are seven areas of learning and development that set out what childminders must teach the children in their settings. All areas of learning are important and inter-connected.	
1.4	Three areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children’s curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving. These are the prime areas : communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development.	

1.5	Childminders must also support children in four specific areas, which help strengthen and develop the three prime areas, and ignite children's curiosity and enthusiasm. The specific areas are literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design.	
	Educational programmes	Checked
1.6	The educational programmes are high level curriculum summaries which set out what should be taught in settings for each area of learning. They must involve activities and experiences that enable children to learn and develop, as set out under each of the seven areas of learning (please see pages 8-11).	
	Learning and Development Considerations	Checked
1.7	Childminders should be ambitious for all children. To do this, they must consider the individual needs, interests, and development of each child in their care. They must use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience for each child in all areas of learning and development. Childminders working with the youngest children are expected to ensure a strong foundation for children's development in the three prime areas. The specific areas of learning provide children with a broad curriculum and with opportunities to strengthen and apply the prime areas of learning. This is particularly important in developing language and extending vocabulary.	
	Acting on concerns	Checked
1.8	Throughout the early years, if a childminder is worried about a child's progress in any prime area, childminders must discuss this with the child's parents and / or carers and agree how to support the child. Childminders must consider whether a child needs any additional support, including whether they may have a special educational need or disability which requires specialist support.	
	English as an Additional Language	Checked
1.9	For children whose home language is not English, childminders may take reasonable steps to provide opportunities for children to develop and use their home language in play and learning, supporting their language development in play and learning, supporting their language development at home.	

1.10	Childminders must ensure children have sufficient opportunities to learn and reach a good standard in English language during the EYFS, ensuring children are ready to benefit from the opportunities available to them when they begin Key Stage 1. When assessing communication, language and literacy skills, childminders must assess children's skills in English. If a child does not have a strong grasp of English language, childminders must explore the child's skills in the home language with parents and/or carers, to establish whether there is cause for concern about language delay.	
	Approaches to teaching and learning	Checked
1.11	This framework does not prescribe a particular teaching approach. Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults. Childminders need to decide what they want children to learn in their setting, and the most effective way to teach it. Childminders must stimulate children's interests, responding to each child's emerging needs and guiding their development through warm, positive interactions coupled with secure routines for play and learning.	
1.12	If childminders are providing care to reception-age children, there should be a greater focus on teaching the essential skills and knowledge in the specific areas of learning. This will help children to prepare for Key Stage 1.	
1.13	In planning and guiding what children learn, childminders must reflect on the different rates at which children are developing and adjust their practice appropriately. Three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • playing and exploring - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go' • active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements • creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things. 	
	A quality workforce focused on learning and development and health and safety	Checked
1.14	All children deserve high-quality early education and care. This requires a quality workforce. A well-trained, skilled childminder can help every child achieve the best possible educational outcomes ...The requirements in relation to workforce training and responsibilities, including that of the key person, are outlined in Section 3 but they are equally important for children's learning and development as they are for their safety and welfare.	

	Curriculum guidance	Checked
1.15	Development Matters - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) government curriculum guidance for the EYFS, can support childminders to deliver the EYFS learning and development requirements. It can be used as an effective early years curriculum. This guidance is non-statutory ... It is up to childminders to decide how they deliver the learning and development requirements.	
	Section 2 – Assessment	Checked
2.1	Assessment plays an important part in helping parents, carers and practitioners to recognise children's progress, understand their needs, and to plan activities and support. This section sets out the assessment requirements childminders must meet, as well as guidance on assessment.	
2.2	Assessment should not involve long breaks from interaction with children or require excessive paperwork. When assessing whether an individual child is at the expected level of development, childminders should draw on their knowledge of the child and their own expert professional judgement. Childminders are not required to prove this through collection of any physical evidence.	
2.3	Childminders should keep parents and / or carers up to date on their child's progress and development. Childminders should address any learning and development needs in partnership with parents and / or carers, and any relevant professionals. This is to ensure their entire early years experience contributes to their readiness for Key Stage 1.	
	Ongoing assessment	Checked
2.4	Ongoing assessment (also known as formative assessment) is an integral part of the learning and development process. It involves practitioners understanding children's interests and what they know and can do, and then shaping teaching and learning experiences for each child reflecting that knowledge. In their interactions with children, childminders should make and act on their own day-to-day observations about children's progress and observations that parents and carers share. However, there is no requirement to keep written records in relation to this.	
	Progress check at age two	Checked

2.5	When a child is aged between two and three, childminders must review their progress and provide parents and/or carers with a short-written summary of their child's development in the prime areas.	
2.6	Beyond the prime areas, it is for practitioners to decide what the written summary should include, reflecting the development level and needs of the individual child.	
2.7	<p>The summary must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight areas in which a child is progressing well; Highlight areas in which some additional support might be needed; Focus particularly on any areas where there is a concern that a child may have a developmental delay, which may indicate a special educational need or disability; Describe the activities and strategies the childminder intends to adopt to address any issues or concerns. This plan should involve parents and carers and other professionals (e.g. the child's health visitor) as appropriate. 	
2.8	If a child moves settings between the ages of two and three, it is expected that the progress check would usually be undertaken by the setting where the child has spent most time. Childminders must discuss with parents and/or carers how the summary of development can be used to support learning at home. Non-statutory guidance, Progress check at age 2 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) is available to support childminders in completing the progress check.	
2.9	Childminders should encourage parents and/or carers to share information from the progress check with other relevant professionals, including their health visitor and the staff of any new provision the child may transfer to. Childminders must agree with parents and/or carers when will be the most useful point to provide a summary. Where possible, the progress check and the Healthy Child Programme health and development review at age two (when health visitors gather information on a child's health and development) should inform each other and support integrated working. This will allow health and educational professionals to identify strengths as well as any developmental delay and any particular support from which they think the child/family might benefit. Childminders must have the consent of parents and/or carers to share information directly with other relevant professionals.	
	Assessment at the end of the EYFS – the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)	Checked

2.10	In the final term of the year in which the child reaches age five, and no later than 30 June in that term, the EYFS Profile must be completed for each child. This is therefore usually undertaken by reception teachers, but on rare occasions it could be undertaken in other settings too.	
2.11	A childminder must complete the EYFS profile only where a child they are caring for has not started school by the final term of the year in which the child reaches age 5, and will complete the EYFS in their setting...Childminders that are in this position must refer to Annex B and C to view the early learning goals (ELGs) and requirements of the Profile assessment.	

Sections 3 – The Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements

	Introduction (The changes to the September 2025 document are in blue)	Checked
3.1	Children learn best when they are healthy, safe, secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the people caring for them.	
3.2	This section of the framework sets out the safeguarding and welfare requirements childminders must meet. They are designed to help childminders create a high-quality, welcoming, and safe setting where children can enjoy learning and grow in confidence.	
3.3	Childminders must take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well. The requirements in this section explain what childminders must do to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard children. • Ensure the adults who have contact with children are suitable. • Promote good health. • Support and understand behaviour. • Maintain records, policies and procedures. 	
	Safeguarding policies and procedure	Checked

3.4	<p>Childminders working alone or with assistants must take lead responsibility for safeguarding children in their setting. Childminders must know how to contact the local statutory children's services, and the Local Safeguarding Partners (LCPs). All practitioners must be alert to any issues of concern in the child's life at home or elsewhere.</p>	
3.5	<p>In the case of childminders working together, each childminder is responsible for meeting the requirements of their own registration. Childminders must know that they have a shared responsibility when working together for the wellbeing of all the children present. Therefore, where childminders work together, each childminder also has a responsibility to refer any concerns where another childminder does not continually meet the requirements of their registration.</p>	
3.6	<p>Childminders must have and implement policies and procedures to keep children safe and meet EYFS requirements. Childminders solely registered on the early years register or with an early years CMA are not required to have written policies and procedures. However, they must be able to explain their policies and procedures to parents, carers, and others (for example Ofsted inspectors or the CMA with which they are registered). Childminders must ensure any assistants follow these policies and procedures. Policies and procedures should be in line with the guidance and procedures of the relevant LSP.</p>	
3.7	<p>Safeguarding policies must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The action to be taken when there are safeguarding concerns about a child. • The action to be taken in the event of an allegation being made against anyone living, working or looking after children at the premises from which the childcare/childminding is provided. • How mobile phones, cameras and other electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities are used in the setting. • Procedures to follow to check the suitability of new recruits. • Detail of how safeguarding training is delivered and how practitioners are supported to put this into practice. <p>Childminders may find it helpful to read Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>	
	<p>Whistleblowing</p>	<p>Checked</p>

3.8	<p>Childminders must put appropriate whistleblowing procedures in place for all assistants to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in the setting's safeguarding provision. This must include when and how to report concerns and the process that will be followed after staff report concerns. Childminders must ensure assistants are aware of the setting's whistleblowing procedures and must ensure all assistants feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and know that such concerns will be taken seriously.</p>	
3.9	<p>Where an assistant feels unable to raise an issue with the childminder, or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, they should use the other channels open to them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSPCC whistleblowing advice line is available. Staff can call 0800 0280285 – 08:00 to 20:00, Monday to Friday and 09:00 to 18:00 at weekends. The email address is: help@nspcc.org.uk. Alternatively, staff can write to: National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), Weston House, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH. • Ofsted provides guidance on how to make complaints about a childcare provider: Complaints procedure - Ofsted - GOV.UK <p>General guidance on whistleblowing can be found via: Whistleblowing for employees: What is a whistleblower - GOV.UK</p>	
	Concerns about children's safety and welfare	Checked
3.10	<p>If childminders have concerns about children's safety or welfare, they must immediately notify their local authority children's social care team, in line with local reporting procedures, and, in emergencies, the police. Childminders must also take into account the government's statutory guidance Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales (2023) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). Childminders may also find it useful to look at the government's Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>	
3.11	<p>Depending on how they are registered, childminders must inform Ofsted or their CMA of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by anyone living, working, or looking after children at the premises. This must happen whether the allegations of harm or abuse are alleged to have been committed on the premises or elsewhere, for example, on a visit. Childminders must also notify Ofsted or their CMA of the action they have taken in response to the allegations. Ofsted/the CMA must be notified as soon as is reasonably practicable, but, in any event, within 14 days of allegations being made. A childminder who without a reasonable excuse fails to do this commits an offence.</p>	

	Child absences	Checked
3.12	Childminders must follow up on absences in a timely manner. If a child is absent for a prolonged period of time, or if a child is absent without notification from the parent or carer, attempts must be made to contact the child's parents and/or carers and alternative emergency contacts. Childminders must consider patterns and trends in a child's absences and their personal circumstances. Childminders must use their professional judgement when deciding if the child's absence should be considered as prolonged. Consideration must be given to the child's vulnerability, parent's and/or carer's vulnerability and their home life. Any concerns must be referred to local children's social care services and/or a police welfare check requested.	
3.13	Childminders must have an attendance policy that they share with parents and/or carers. This must include expectations for reporting child absences and the actions childminders will take if a child is absent without notification or for a prolonged period of time, for example: implementing the setting's safeguarding procedures, following up with the parents and/or carers and contacting emergency contacts if parents and/or carers are not contactable.	
	Suitable people	Checked
3.14	Childminders and any assistants must be suitable; they must have the relevant training and have passed any required checks to fulfil their roles. Childminders must obtain a reference for any childminding assistants they recruit. Childminders and any assistants must be cleared as 'suitable' by Ofsted or their CMA via the suitability letter before they can be included in child:staff ratios. It is the childminder's responsibility to check the initial and ongoing suitability of an assistant.	
3.15	Childminders must also ensure any person who may have regular contact with children (for example, someone living or working on the same premises where the childminding is being provided), is suitable.	
3.16	Ofsted, or a childminder's CMA, is responsible for checking the suitability of: •The childminder. • Every other person looking after children on the premises. • Every other person aged 16 and over living or working on the same premises the childminding is being provided.	

3.17	Enhanced criminal records checks and barred list checks are required by Ofsted, or a childminder's CMA, for any relevant people. If a person has lived or worked outside the UK, an additional criminal records check should be made (or multiple "checks" if they have lived in more than one country).	
3.18	Childminders must tell assistants that they must disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings that may affect their suitability to work with children (whether received before or during their employment at the setting). Childminders must not allow anyone whose suitability has not been checked, including through a criminal records check, to have unsupervised contact with the children being cared for.	
3.19	Relevant information about identity checks, the vetting process completed (including the criminal records check reference number, the date a check was obtained and details of who obtained it) will be kept by Ofsted or the CMA with which the childminder is registered.	
3.20	Childminders are required to make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service if an assistant is dismissed (or would have been, had they not left the setting first) because they have harmed a child or put a child at risk of harm.	
	References	Checked
3.21	Childminders must obtain a reference for any assistants before they are recruited. Childminders should: • Not accept open references e.g. to whom it may concern. • Not rely on applicants to obtain their reference. • Ensure any references are from the applicant's current employer, training provider or education setting and have been completed by a senior person with appropriate authority. • Not accept references from a family member. • Obtain verification of the individual's most recent relevant period of employment where the applicant is not currently employed. • Secure a reference from the relevant employer from the last time the applicant worked with children (if not currently working with children). If the applicant has never worked with children, then ensure a reference is from their current employer, training provider or education setting. • Ensure electronic references originate from a legitimate source. • Contact referees to clarify content where information is vague or insufficient information is provided. • Compare the information on the application form with that in the reference and take up any discrepancies with the applicant. • Establish the reason for the applicant leaving their current or most recent post, and ensure any concerns are resolved satisfactorily before appointment is confirmed.	

3.22	References should be provided for previous employees upon request in a timely manner. When asked to provide references, childminders should ensure the information confirms whether they are satisfied with the applicant's suitability to work with children and provide the facts (not opinions) of any substantiated safeguarding concerns/allegations that meet the harm threshold. They should not include information about concerns/allegations which are unsubstantiated, unfounded, false, or malicious.	
	Disqualification	Checked
3.23	A childminder or assistant may be disqualified from registration. Childminders may find guidance Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 - GOV.UK about disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 helpful. If a childminder or assistant is disqualified, they must not continue as an early years provider or assistant, or be directly involved in the management of any early years provision. When a person is disqualified, childminders must not employ that person in relation to early years provision.	
3.24	A childminder or childminder's assistant may also be disqualified because they live in the same household as another person who is disqualified, or because they live in the same household where a disqualified person is employed. If a childminder, childminder assistant or childcare practitioner is disqualified they may, in some circumstances, be able to obtain a 'waiver' from Ofsted.	
3.25	Depending on how they are registered, a childminder must notify Ofsted, or their CMA, of any significant event which is likely to affect the suitability of any person who is in regular contact with children on the premises where childcare is provided. The disqualification of an assistant is an example of a significant event.	
3.26	Depending on how they are registered, the childminder must give Ofsted, or their CMA, the following information about themselves or about any person who lives with, or is employed in the same household, as the registered childminder: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of any order, determination, conviction, or other ground for disqualification from registration under regulations made under section 75 of the Childcare Act 2006. • The date of the order, determination or conviction, or the date when the other ground for disqualification arose. • The body or court which made the order, determination or conviction, and the sentence (if any) imposed. • A certified copy of the relevant order (in relation to an order or conviction). 	
3.27	Childminders must provide this information to Ofsted, or their CMA, as soon as reasonably practicable, but in any event within 14 days of the date the childminder became aware of the information, or should have reasonably become aware of it, if they had made reasonable enquiries.	

3.28	If a childminder becomes aware of relevant information that may lead to an assistant or any person living or working in the same household being disqualified , the childminder must take appropriate action to ensure the safety of children.	
	Staff taking medication / other substances	Checked
3.29	Childminders and childminding assistants must not be under the influence of alcohol or any other substance which may affect their ability to care for children. If a practitioner is taking medication which may affect their ability to care for children, they should seek medical advice. Childminders and their assistants must only work directly with children if the medical advice received confirms that the medication is unlikely to impair that person's ability to look after children properly. All medication on the premises must be stored securely, and out of reach of children, at all times.	
	Smoking and vaping	Checked
3.30	Childminders must not allow smoking in or on the premises when children are present or about to be present. Practitioners should not vape or use e-cigarettes when children are present, and childminders should consider Public Health England advice on their use in public places and workplaces. Use of e-cigarettes in public places and workplaces - GOV.UK	
	Training, support and skills	Checked
3.31	What childminders and childminder assistants know, plan for, and do, matters for children's learning, development, safety, and happiness in settings. Childminders must have appropriate qualifications, training, skills, knowledge, and a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities in order to provide good quality early years provision.	
3.32	Childminders must follow their legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 including the fair and equal treatment of any assistants regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.	
	Safeguarding training	Checked
3.33	Childminders must demonstrate that they have knowledge and understanding of the EYFS, including how to implement it in their setting .	

3.34	In childminding settings, the childminder is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL must attend a training course consistent with the criteria set out in Annex C. Childminders should read Child abuse concerns: guide for practitioners - GOV.UK	
3.35	Childminders must provide support, advice, and guidance to any assistants on an ongoing basis, and on any specific safeguarding issue as required. Childminders must make sure any assistants understand the setting's safeguarding policies and procedures, and have up to date knowledge of safeguarding issues. Childminders must ensure all assistants are trained in line with the criteria set out in Annex C.	
3.36	Training must be renewed every two years. Childminders may consider whether they and any assistants need to undertake annual refresher training during any two-year period to help maintain basic skills and keep up to date with any changes to safeguarding procedures or as a result of any safeguarding concerns that occur in the setting.	
	Qualifications	Checked
3.37	An approved qualification is defined by the Department for Education as meeting the criteria set out in the Early years qualification requirements and standards - GOV.UK Childminders interested in an early years qualification may find it useful to read the Early Years Qualifications List, published on GOV.UK.	
	Training and supervision of assistants' skills	Checked
3.38	Childminders are accountable for the quality of the work of anyone working for them and must be satisfied that they are competent to meet their roles and responsibilities.	
3.39	Childminders must ensure that assistants receive induction training to help them understand their roles and responsibilities. Induction training must include information about emergency evacuation procedures, safeguarding, child protection, and health and safety issues. Childminders must support assistants to undertake appropriate training and professional development opportunities to ensure they offer quality learning and development experiences for children that continually improves.	
3.40	Childminders must put appropriate arrangements in place for the supervision of assistants who have contact with children, families, and carers. Effective supervision provides support, coaching, and training for the assistant and promotes the interests of	

	children. Supervision should foster a culture of mutual support, teamwork, and continuous improvement, which encourages the confidential discussion of sensitive issues.	
3.41	Supervision should provide opportunities for staff to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss any issues – particularly concerning children’s development or wellbeing, including child protection concerns. • Identify solutions to address issues as they arise. • Receive coaching to improve their personal effectiveness. 	
	Paediatric first aid	Checked
3.42	Childminders are required to have a paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate to register and must continue to hold this at all times that they are registered. At least one person who has a current paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate must be on the premises and available at all times when children are present and must accompany children on outings. The certificate must be for a full course consistent with the criteria set out in Annex A. PFA training must be renewed every three years and be relevant for people caring for young children and babies.	
3.43	Childminders should take into account the number of children, assistants, and layout of premises to ensure that a paediatric first aider is able to respond to emergencies quickly.	
3.44	Childminders should make PFA certificates, or a list staff who have a current PFA certificates, available to parents on request.	
	English language skills	Checked
3.45	Childminders and assistants must have sufficient understanding and use of English to ensure the well-being of children in their care. For example, childminders must be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep records in English. • Liaise with other agencies in English. • Summon emergency help. • Understand instructions. For example, about the safety of medicines or food hygiene. 	
	Key person	Checked
3.46	Each child must be assigned a key person. In childminding settings, the key person is the childminder, or can be an assistant where appropriate. Their role is to help ensure that every child’s care is tailored to meet their individual needs, to help the child	

	become familiar with the setting, offer a settled relationship for the child and build a relationship with their parents and/or carers. They should also help families and engage with more specialist support if appropriate.	
	Staff:child ratios	Checked
3.47	Staffing arrangements must meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety. Childminders must ensure that children are adequately supervised, including whilst eating, and decide how to use any assistants to ensure children's needs are met. Childminders must inform parents and/or carers about how any assistants are organised, and, when relevant and practical, aim to involve them in these decisions.	
3.48	Children must usually be within sight and hearing of the childminder and or/assistants and always within sight or hearing. See paragraph 3.63 which applies when children are eating.	
3.49	The ratio requirements below apply to the total number of staff available to work directly with children. Exceptionally, and where the quality of care and safety and security of children is maintained, changes to the ratios may be made, but childminders cannot have more than six children under the age of eight per adult providing care.	
3.50	At any one time, childminders (whether providing the childminding on domestic or non-domestic premises) may care for a maximum of six children under the age of eight. This includes the childminder's own children and any other children for whom they are responsible, such as those being fostered.	
3.51	Of these six children: • A maximum of three may be young children (i.e. a child is a young child until 31st August following his or her fifth birthday). • There should only be one child under the age of one.	
3.52	Any care provided for older children must not adversely affect the care of children receiving early years provision.	
3.53	If a childminder can demonstrate to parents and/or carers and, depending on how they are registered, Ofsted inspector or their CMA, that the individual needs of all the children are being met, exceptions to the usual ratios can be made. Examples of permissible exceptions include, but are not limited to: • When childminders are caring for siblings, or • when caring for their own child, or • to maintain continuity of care, or • if children aged three to five only attend the childminding setting before and/or after a	

	normal school day, and/or during school holidays, they may be cared for at the same time as three other young children. In all circumstances, the total number of children under the age of eight being cared for must not exceed six per person .	
3.54	If a childminder employs an assistant or works with another childminder, each childminder (or assistant) may care for the number of children permitted by the ratios specified above.	
3.55	Children may be left in the sole care of childminders' assistants for up to two hours in a single day. Childminders must obtain parents' and/or carers' permission to leave children with an assistant, including for very short periods of time.	
3.56	For childminders providing overnight care, the ratios set out above continue to apply and the childminder must always be able to hear the children (this may be via a monitor). Childminders are required to notify Ofsted or their CMA if they intend to provide overnight care.	
3.57	Childminders must not include anyone aged under 17 in ratios, except apprentices who may be included in ratios from the age of 16. Childminders must not allow anyone aged under 17 to care for children unsupervised at any time. Childminders may count students and long-term volunteers (aged 17 or over) and apprentices (aged 16 or over) in ratios but only if the childminder is satisfied they are suitable, (as in paragraphs 3.14 to 3.17) competent and responsible.	
	Health	
	Medicines	Checked
3.58	Childminders must promote the good health, including the oral health, of the children they look after.	
3.59	They must have a procedure, which must be discussed with parents and/or carers, for taking appropriate action if children are ill or infectious. This procedure must also cover the necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection.	
3.60	Childminders must have and implement a policy, and procedures, for administering medicines to children. It must include systems for obtaining information about a child's needs for medicines, and for keeping this information up to date. Childminders and assistants must have training if the administration of medicine requires medical or technical knowledge. Prescription	

	medicines must not be administered unless they have been prescribed for a child by a doctor, dentist, nurse, or pharmacist (medicines containing aspirin should only be given if prescribed by a doctor).	
3.61	Medicine (both prescription and non-prescription) must only be administered to a child where written permission for that particular medicine has been obtained from the child's parent and/or carer. Childminders must keep a written record each time a medicine is administered to a child, and inform the child's parents and/or carers on the same day the medicine has been taken, or as soon as reasonably practicable.	
	Food and drink	Checked
3.62	Where children are provided with meals, snacks, and drinks, these must be healthy, balanced and nutritious. To understand how to meet this requirement childminders must have regard to the Early Years Foundation Stage nutrition guidance Fresh drinking water must always be available and accessible to children.	
	Safer eating	
3.63	Whilst children are eating there should always be a member of staff in the room with a valid paediatric first aid certificate for a full course consistent with the criteria set out in Annex A.	
3.64	Before a child is admitted to the setting the childminder must obtain information about any special dietary requirements, preferences, food allergies and intolerances that the child has, and any special health requirements. This information must be shared by the childminder with all staff involved in the preparing and handling of food. At each mealtime and snack time childminders must be clear about who is responsible for checking that the food being provided meets all the requirements for each child.	
3.65	Childminders must have ongoing discussions with parents and/or carers and, where appropriate, health professionals to develop allergy action plans for managing any known allergies and intolerances. This information must be kept up to date by the childminder and shared with all staff. Childminders should refer to the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology BSACI Allergy Action Plan 2018 NoAAI2981-2.pdf. Childminders must ensure that all staff are aware of the symptoms and treatments for allergies and anaphylaxis, the differences between allergies and intolerances and that children can develop allergies at any time, especially during the introduction of solid foods which is sometimes called	

	complementary feeding or weaning. Childminders should refer to the NHS advice on food allergies: Food allergy - NHS and treatment of anaphylaxis: Anaphylaxis - NHS	
3.66	Childminders must have ongoing discussions with parents and/or carers about the stage their child is at in regard to introducing solid foods, including to understand the textures the child is familiar with. Assumptions must not be made based on age. Childminders must prepare food in a suitable way for each child's individual developmental needs, working with parents and/or carers to help children move on to the next stage at a pace right for the child. The NHS has some advice childminders should refer to: Weaning - Start for Life - NHS	
3.67	Childminders must prepare food in a way to prevent choking. This guidance on food safety for young children: Help for early years providers : Food safety includes advice on food and drink to avoid, how to reduce the risk of choking and links to other useful resources for early years settings.	
3.68	Babies and young children should be seated safely in a highchair or appropriately sized low chair while eating. Where possible there should be a designated eating space where distractions are minimised.	
3.69	Children must always be within sight and hearing of a childminder or assistant whilst eating. Choking can be completely silent, therefore, it is important for providers to be alert to when a child may be starting to choke. Where possible, the childminder or assistant should sit facing children whilst they eat, so they can make sure children are eating in a way to prevent choking and so they can prevent food sharing and be aware of any unexpected allergic reactions.	
3.70	When a child experiences a choking incident that requires intervention, providers should record details of where and how the child choked and ensure parents and/or carers are made aware. The records should be reviewed periodically to identify if there are trends or common features of incidents that could be addressed to reduce the risk of choking. Appropriate action should be taken to address any identified concerns.	
	Food and drink facilities	Checked
3.71	There must be an area adequately equipped to provide healthy meals, snacks and drinks for children as necessary. There must be suitable facilities for the hygienic preparation of food for children, if necessary, including suitable sterilisation equipment for	

	babies' food. Childminders must be confident that they, or any assistants responsible for preparing and handling food, are competent to do so.	
	Food poisoning	Checked
3.72	Depending on how they are registered, childminders must notify Ofsted or their CMA of any food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises. This must be done as soon as is reasonably practical, but in any event within 14 days of the incident. A childminder who, without reasonable excuse, doesn't meet this requirement commits an offence.	
	Supporting and understanding children's behaviour	Checked
3.73	Childminders are responsible for supporting, understanding, and managing children's behaviour in an appropriate way.	
3.74	Childminders must not give or threaten corporal punishment or any punishment which could negatively affect a child's well-being. Childminders must take reasonable steps to ensure that corporal punishment is not given by anyone who is caring for or is in regular contact with a child, or by anyone living or working in the premises where the childminding is taking place. Any childminder who doesn't meet these requirements commits an offence. A person will not be considered to have used corporal punishment (and therefore will not have committed an offence), if physical intervention was taken to avert immediate danger of personal injury to any person (including the child) or to manage a child's behaviour if absolutely necessary.	
3.75	Childminders must keep a record of any occasion where physical intervention is used, and parents and/or carers must be informed on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable.	
	Special educational needs	Checked
3.76	Childminders must have arrangements in place to support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Childminders are encouraged to identify a person to act as a SENCO (SEND coordinator). Childminders who are registered with a CMA, or who are part of a network, may wish to share the role between them. Childminders who are funded by the local authority to deliver early education places are required to have regard to the SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf	

	Other childminders may find it helpful to familiarise themselves with the early years section of the SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf	
	Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment	
	Accident or injury	Checked
3.77	Childminders must ensure a first aid box with appropriate items for use on children is always accessible. Childminders must keep a written record of accidents or injuries and first aid treatment. Childminders must inform parents and/or carers of any accident or injury sustained by the child on the same day as, or as soon as reasonably practicable after, of any first aid treatment given.	
3.78	Depending on how they are registered, childminders must notify Ofsted or their CMA of any serious accident, illness, or injury to, or death of, any child while in their care, and of the action taken. This must be done as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any event within 14 days of the incident occurring. A childminder who, without reasonable excuse, doesn't meet this requirement commits an offence. Childminders must notify local child protection agencies of any serious accident or injury to, or the death of, any child while in their care, and must act on any advice from those agencies.	
	Safety of premises	Checked
3.79	Childminders must ensure that their premises, including overall floor space and outdoor spaces, are fit for purpose and suitable for the age of children cared for and the activities provided on the premises. Childminders must comply with requirements of health and safety legislation, including fire safety and hygiene requirements.	
3.80	Childminders must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, assistants, and others on the premises in the case of fire or any other emergency. Childminders must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An emergency evacuation procedure. • Appropriate fire detection and control equipment (for example, fire alarms, smoke detectors, fire blankets and/or fire extinguishers) which is in working order. Fire exits must be clearly identifiable, and fire doors are free of obstruction and easily opened from the inside.	
	Indoor space requirements	Checked

3.81	<p>The premises and equipment must be organised in a way that meets the needs of children. Providers must meet the following indoor space requirements where indoor activity in a building(s) forms the main part of (or is integral) to the provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children under two years: 3.5m² per child. • Two year olds: 2.5m² per child. • Children aged three to five years: 2.3m² per child. 	
3.82	<p>These judgements should be based on useable areas of the rooms used by the children, not including storage areas, thoroughfares, dedicated staff areas, cloakrooms, utility rooms, and toilets. Childminders should consider what areas within their kitchens are safely usable.</p>	
3.83	<p>Where the space standards are applied, childminders cannot increase the number of children on roll because they additionally use an outside area. Forest and other exclusively outdoor provision (where children are outside all or almost all of the time) is not required to meet the space standards above, as long as children's needs can be met. For this kind of provision, indoor space requirements can be used as a guide for the minimum area needed.</p>	
	Outdoor access	Checked
3.84	<p>Childminders must provide access to an outdoor play area. If that is not possible, they must ensure that outdoor activities are planned and taken daily (unless circumstances make this inappropriate, for example unsafe weather conditions). Childminders must follow their legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 (for example, the provisions on reasonable adjustments).</p>	
	Sleeping arrangements	Checked
3.85	<p>Sleeping children must be frequently checked to ensure that they are safe. Being safe includes ensuring that cots and bedding are in good condition and suited to the age of the child, and that babies are placed down to sleep safely in line with the latest government safety guidance: Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) - NHS Childminders should read NHS advice on safety of sleeping children: Reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) - NHS</p>	
	Toilets and intimate hygiene	Checked
3.86	<p>Childminders must ensure: • There is an adequate number of toilets and hand basins available. • There are suitable hygienic changing facilities for changing any children who are in nappies. • Children's privacy is considered and balanced with</p>	

	safeguarding and support needs when changing nappies and toileting. • There is an adequate supply of clean bedding, towels, spare clothes, and any other necessary items.	
	Organising premises for confidentiality and safeguarding	Checked
3.87	Childminders must ensure that: • On request, they can make available an area where they may talk to parents and/or carers confidentially. • Children are only released into the care of individuals of whom the parent has explicitly notified the childminder. • Children do not leave the premises unsupervised. • They take all reasonable steps to prevent unauthorised persons entering the premises and have an agreed procedure for checking the identity of visitors. • They consider what additional measures are necessary when children stay overnight.	
	Insurance	Checked
3.88	Childminders must carry the appropriate insurance (e.g. public liability insurance) to cover all premises from which they provide childminding.	
	Safety on outings	Checked
3.89	Children must be kept safe while on outings. Childminders must assess potential risks or hazards for the children and must identify the steps to be taken to remove, minimise, and manage those risks and hazards. The assessment must include consideration of adult to child ratios. The risk assessment does not necessarily need to be in writing; this is up to childminders.	
3.90	Vehicles transporting children, and the driver of those vehicles, must be adequately insured.	
	Risk assessment	Checked
3.91	Childminders must ensure that they take all reasonable steps to ensure that children in their care, and any assistants, are not exposed to risks and must be able to demonstrate how they are managing risks. Childminders must determine where it is helpful to make some written risk assessments in relation to specific issues, to inform their practice, and to demonstrate how they are managing risks if asked by parents and/or carers or inspectors. Risk assessments should identify aspects of the environment that	

	need to be checked on a regular basis, when and by whom those aspects will be checked, and how the risk will be removed or minimised.	
	Information and record keeping	Checked
3.92	Childminders must maintain records, obtain and share relevant information (with parents and carers, other professionals working with the child, the police, social services and Ofsted or their CMA) as appropriate. This is to ensure their setting is safe and efficiently managed, and the needs of all children are met. Childminders must enable a regular two-way flow of information with parents and/or carers (and between other providers if a child is attending more than one setting). If requested, childminders should incorporate parents' and/or carers' comments into children's records.	
3.93	Records must be easily accessible and available (these may be kept securely off the premises). Confidential information and records about staff and children must be held securely and only accessible and available to those who have a right or professional need to see them. Childminders must be aware of their responsibilities under the Data Protection Legislation and, where relevant, the Freedom of Information Act 2000.	
3.94	Childminders must ensure that they and any assistants understand the need to protect the privacy of the children in their care, as well the legal requirements that exist to ensure that information relating to the child is handled in a way that ensures confidentiality. Parents and/or carers must be given access to all records about their child, provided that no relevant exemptions apply to their disclosure under the Data Protection Act.	
3.95	Records relating to individual children must be retained for a reasonable period of time after they have left the provision.	
	Information about the child	Checked
3.96	Childminders must record the following information for each child in their care: • Full name. • Date of birth. • Name and address of every parent and/or carer who is known to the childminder. • Information about any other person who has parental responsibility for the child. • Which parent(s) and/or carer(s) the child normally lives with. • Emergency contact details for parents and/or carers.	
	Information for parents and carers	Checked

3.97	<p>Childminders must share the following information with parents and/or carers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the EYFS is being delivered in the setting, and how parents and/or carers can access more information. • The range and type of activities and experiences provided for children, the daily routines of the setting, and how parents and/or carers can share learning at home. • How the setting supports children with special educational needs and disabilities. • Food and drinks provided for children. • Details of their policies and procedures, including the procedure to be followed in the event of a parent and/or carer failing to collect a child at the appointed time, or in the event of a child going missing at, or away from, the setting. • How staffing at the setting is organised (for example, whether the childminder has an assistant). • The name of the child's key person and their role. • A telephone number for parents and/or carers to contact the childminder in an emergency. • For anybody registered as a “childminder without domestic premises” – that they are not permitted to provide any provision under that registration from any domestic premises, which includes for the drop-off and/or collection of a child. 	
	Complaints	Checked
3.98	<p>Childminders are not required to have a written procedure for handling complaints, but they must keep a record of any complaints they receive and their outcome. Childminders must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate written complaints relating to how they are fulfilling the EYFS requirements. • Notify the person who made the complaint of the outcome of the investigation within 28 days of having received the complaint. • Make the record of complaint/s available to Ofsted or the relevant CMA on request. 	

3.99	Childminders must make available to parents and/or carers the details about how to contact Ofsted or their CMA as appropriate, if they believe the childminder is not meeting the EYFS requirements.	
	Inspections and quality assurance visits	Checked
3.100	If a childminder becomes aware that they are to be inspected by Ofsted or have a quality assurance visit by the CMA, they must notify parents and/or carers. After an inspection by Ofsted or a quality assurance visit by their CMA, childminders must supply a copy of the report to parents and/or carers of children attending on a regular basis of the outcome.	
	Information about the childminder	Checked
3.101	<p>Childminders must hold the following documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their name, home address and telephone number and any other person living or employed on the premises. • Name, home address and telephone number of anyone else who will regularly be in unsupervised contact with the children attending the early years provision. • A daily record of the names of the children being cared for on the premises, their hours of attendance, and the names of each child's key person (if this is not the childminder themselves). • Their certificate of registration (which can be displayed digitally, for example on a childminder's website, and must be made available to parents and/or carers on request). 	
	Changes that must be notified to Ofsted or the relevant childminder agency (CMA)	Checked
3.102	<p>Depending on how they are registered, all childminders must notify either Ofsted or their CMA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any change in the address of the premises (and must obtain prior approval to operate from any non-domestic premises). • Any change to the premises which may affect the space available to children and the quality of childcare available to them. • Any change to the name or address of the childminder, or the childminder's other contact information. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any change to the persons aged 16 years or older living or working on any domestic premises from which childminding is provided. • Any change to the persons caring for children on any premises where childminding is provided. • Any proposal to change the hours during which childcare is to be provided which will entail the provision of overnight care. • Any significant event which is likely to affect the suitability of the childminder to look after children. • Any significant event which is likely to affect the suitability of any person who cares for, or/is in regular contact with, children on the premises on which childminding is provided. 	
3.103	<p>Where childminders are required to notify Ofsted or their CMA about a change of person, as specified in paragraph 3.102 above, childminders must give Ofsted or their CMA the new person's name, any former names or aliases, date of birth, and home address. Where it is reasonably practicable to do so, this must be done in advance of the change happening. In other cases, this must be done as soon as is reasonably practicable but, in any event, within 14 days. A childminder who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with these requirements commits an offence.</p>	
	Other legal duties	Checked
3.104	<p>The EYFS requirements sit alongside other legal obligations and do not supersede or replace any other legislation which childminders must still meet. Other duties on providers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment laws. • Anti-discrimination legislation. • Health and safety legislation. • Data collection regulations. • Duty of care. 	