

Become a Childminder



Childminding

Childminders are an important element of the childcare sector in Scotland and offer a unique experience of childcare for children and families. They provide care and learning in the childminder's own home, generally in small groups with no more than six children at one time. Often a childminder can provide flexibility for parents or carers who need to manage work commitments, and may be used to provide wrap around care alongside nurseries or schools.

Childminders are also consistently rated, through independent inspection by the Care Inspectorate, as providing high quality childcare across all quality criteria.



Why Become a Childminder?

Childminding is a hugely rewarding career that provides you with the opportunity to:

Contribute to children's development, learning and wellbeing

Provide a valuable, professional childcare service for your community

Develop new skills and qualifications

Be your own boss, from your own home

Earn money while working around your family's needs



Become a Childminder: Step-by-step

1. Contact Business Gateway - make an appointment to explore funding options and how to set up your new childminding business in Fife

[Welcome to Business Gateway Fife](#) | [Business Gateway Fife](#)

2. Register with the Care Inspectorate - All childminders in Scotland need to be registered by the care inspectorate. It usually takes three to six months to become registered

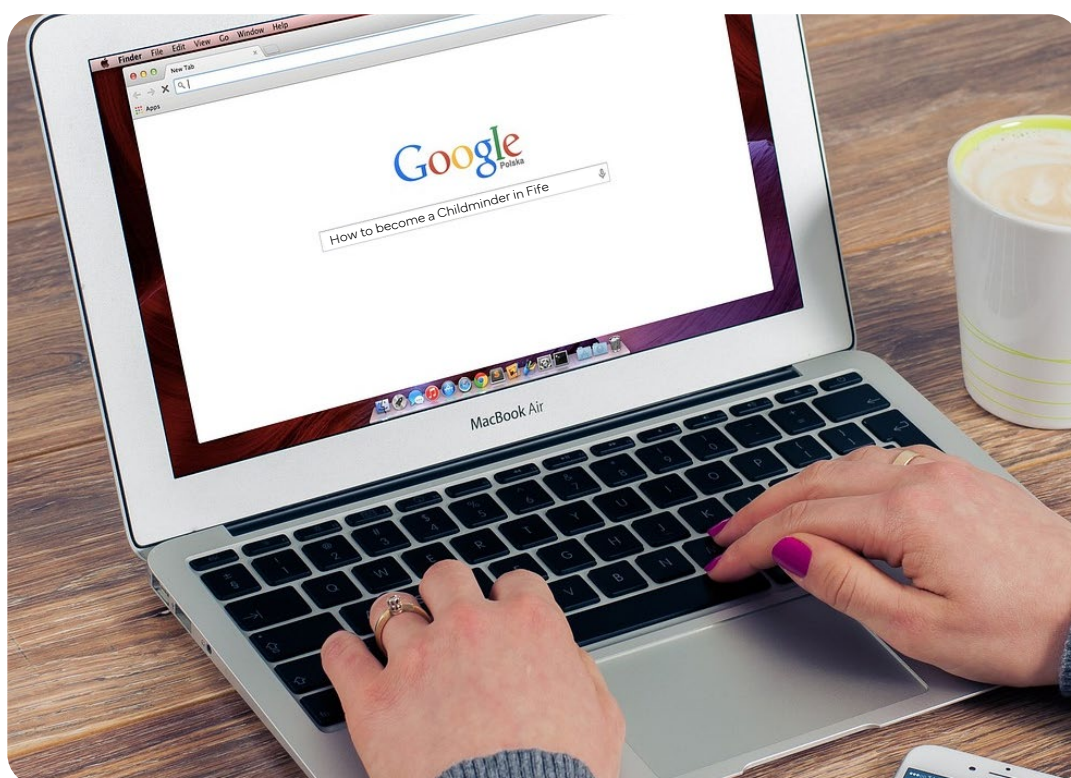
[Register a childminding service](#)

3. Contact Fife Council's Early Learning Childcare Service for help, support and advice on the application process, training & next steps, Contact:

earlyyearsmanager@fife.gov.uk

4. Register with SCMA (Optional) - Get support on your new childminding journey every step of the way. They can provide you with a range of tools, help and support from the moment you decide to join the profession and throughout your career.

[Become a Childminder](#)



Training & Support

Fife Council have a designated page on the [Early Learning in Fife Website](#). This provides further information that you may need for your Childminding Business from set up to running a high quality service.

[Early Learning in Fife: Childminders](#)



Early Learning in Fife

SUPPORTING ELC PRACTITIONERS IN FIFE

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Childminders

"Childminders have a vital part to play in achieving the ambition of making Scotland the best place to grow-up, providing the best possible outcomes for our children, starting in their early childhood. They provide a unique experience, offering flexible and tailored childcare to meet the needs of different children and families."

– Clare Hughey (Minister for Children & Young People)



Useful Information

Fife Council have a designated Early Learning & Childcare Website. This provides further information that you may need for your Childminding Business from set up to running a high quality service

There may be funding options available such as a small business grant and/or support through [Business Gateway](#). Please contact your local Business Gateway office to see if there are any alternative sources of funding available locally.

SCMA has a proven track record in delivering induction training and learning as part of or Childminding Induction Support Programme, which is available as e-Learning or as interactive/virtual learning.

[Read more about the Childminding Induction Support Programme](#)

SCMA also has tailor-made learning programmes (including e-Learning programmes), Helpline, business aids and publications that are all created with childminders in mind. Just think of them as a one-stop-shop for all things childminding.

Before you can start welcoming children to your childminding business, you will first need to register with the Care Inspectorate. This process usually takes three to six months. Further information can be found from the Care Inspectorate here.

[Registering and running a childminding service - what you need to know](#)

[CI Guidance for applicants applying to register a care service](#)

When you have submitted your application and paid the registration fee, the Care Inspectorate will contact you at some point during the process to arrange to visit you at the home your service will operate from. They visit to discuss how you will meet the needs of the children and their families. This will include how you will provide care to the children including how you plan and arrange activities. They will also make sure that the home is suitable and safe for caring for other people's children



Frequently Asked Questions

How long does it take to become registered?

On average it takes between three to six months to become fully registered. However, it all depends on how quickly your references are returned, your PVG scheme membership takes to come in and how many childminders are applying at the time.

If you would like to check on the progress of your application please call the Care Inspectorate on 0345 600 9527

How many children can I care for at one time?

Childminders normally care for a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under twelve months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family and household.

How much does it cost to set up a childminding business?

The cost for each childminder varies but the common costs will include: Care Inspectorate registration fee (currently £28). Public Liability Insurance (£35). Information Commissioner's Office registration fee (if necessary). Cost of start-up equipment (including smoke alarms, fire blanket, toys, and safety gates). Business stationery such as a cashbook and contracts.

Am I entitled to sick leave and maternity pay?

As a childminder you will be self-employed. This means you are responsible for your tax and National Insurance payments. It also means you may not be eligible for the same maternity pay or sick leave as employed workers. Check the gov.uk website for full information on your entitlements as a self-employed childminder.

When I can apply to come into partnership

Once you are set up and running your childminding business you can apply to become a funded provider. You do not need to wait for an inspection. If you would like to become a funded provider we have a step by step guide to help.

Please contact: earlyyears.manager@fife.gov.uk