New Flexibilities for childminders (from 1st Nov 2024)

**From 1 November**, DfE are implementing new flexibilities for childminders to help them join and stay in the profession. This is supporting the government’s commitment to roll out expanded childcare entitlements and give children the best start in life.
The new flexibilities will:

* Create a new category of childminder (childminder without domestic premises) who work entirely from non-domestic premises
* Increase, from 3 to 4, the total number of people that can work together under a childminder’s registration (including the childminder)
* Give childminders and providers of childcare on domestic premises (CODPs) more flexibility, allowing them to spend more time operating outside of domestic premises, such as a community hall or school
* Increase the number of people needed for CODPs to operate from 4 or more, to 5 or more people providing care (CODPs that were registered, or applied to register, before 1 November can continue operating with 4 or more people)

Currently, at least half of a childminder’s provision must be provided on domestic premises, and they are limited to working with a maximum of 3 people in total.

**What changes are you making?**

From 1 November 2024, there will be two categories of childminder:
1. Childminder (with domestic premises)
2. Childminder (without domestic premises)

Childminders who are already registered do not need to take any action in relation to these changes and will be able to benefit from the new flexibilities.

All childminders will be able to work with an additional person (another childminder or assistant) under their childminder registration – allowing up to 4 people to work together in total.

Childminders (with domestic premises) will be able to choose how much time they operate from their home or from non-domestic premises, as long as they spend at least some of their time operating from their domestic premises.
Those childminders who do not want to, or are unable to, work from home can register for the new category: ‘childminder without domestic premises’ where they would operate entirely from non-domestic premises.

**What changes are you making to Childcare on Domestic Premises (CODP)?**

From 1 November, the numbers for those providing CODP will increase from 4 or more people providing care, to 5 or more people. This is due to the increase in the numbers that childminders will be able to work with (from a total of 3 to a total of 4). The changes will allow those who are already registered as CODP (or applied to register) before 1 November to continue operating with 4 or more people.

**What happens for anyone who wants to register as a childminder after 1 November?**

These people will have a choice about how they register, depending on how they want to operate.
The new category, ‘childminder without domestic premises’ may suit those who are unable or do not want to work from home (for example, they may not be able to get planning permission or be restricted by others in their household). They will not be able to operate from a domestic premises, including for drop offs and pick ups.
For those who would like to spend at least some of their time operating from a domestic setting (usually their home) they would register as a childminder (with domestic premises).

**Will these changes affect safeguarding and the quality of provision?**

Childminders can already spend 50% of their time operating from a non-domestic premise. They will be able to continue to provide the same highquality provision regardless of the setting they operate from.
Ofsted and childminder agencies (CMAs) will continue to regulate the safety and quality of childcare provision for each category in line with their legislative responsibilities, and will need to approve non-domestic premises.

All childminders will need to comply with the requirements of the [Early Years Statutory Framework for Childminders and/or the childminder](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flinks-1.govdelivery.com%2FCL0%2Fhttps%3A%252F%252Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk%252Fmedia%252F65aa5e29ed27ca001327b2c6%252FEYFS_statutory_framework_for_childminders.pdf%253Futm_content%3D%2526utm_medium%3Demail%2526utm_name%3D%2526utm_source%3Dgovdelivery%2526utm_term%3D%2F1%2F010001927ab61032-bebfb751-0889-4803-829b-7635da86989e-000000%2FEtBfXFr5QYXa9FvN5r9k57Ie2qVFZ0PuqGzJqBltaVY%3D374&data=05%7C02%7CDiana.ValenciaRamirez%40camden.gov.uk%7Ca3690337825c4986348f08dcec426f74%7C5e8f4a342bdb4854bb42b4d0c7d0246c%7C0%7C0%7C638645017305671683%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=EBC1%2FeUTnjuKYPPqn%2BnSKv9zs2y6O4braH8YgMJlHYI%3D&reserved=0) requirements of the General Childcare Register.

**What changes will you be making to the EYFS to reflect the new flexibilities?**

We are making minor amendments to the EYFS to reflect the changes, which will be published on 11 October (tbc) – these will primarily clarify that the term ‘childminder’ will apply to all categories of childminder.

DfE will also use this as an opportunity to make some clarificatory changes, including around the existing qualification requirements for counting in the staff:child ratios at Level 6. This is to clarify that only those with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) or Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) can be included in the Level 6 staff:child ratios. This is a clarification of existing policy, and there will be no change to qualification and ratio requirements.

**Will the ratio requirements stay the same?**

Yes, there will be no change to current ratio requirements.

**How will the changes support childminders?**
These measures will give greater flexibility for childminders to expand and grow their business, if they want to, by allowing them to work with more people or spend more time working outside of their homes – or both. The new category of ‘childminder without domestic premises’ will allow people to join the profession who may have previously been unable to, for example, if they are unable to work from their home.

As is currently the case, childminders will continue to be responsible for making decisions about how they run their business, and it will be up to them to decide whether the new flexibilities will benefit their business. This may include considering whether any costs may be offset by increased income from expanding their business to care for more children, or working in a premises that may be better located and/or more appealing to parents.

**Where to find out more information about the changes**

Ofsted and childminder agencies will be publishing more detail about the changes soon, including guidance to support those who may want to apply for the new category of childminder.
In the meantime, if you have further queries please contact DfE at: newchildminder.flexibilities@education.gov.uk