

## Childminders

EYFS Statutory Guidance – exploring childminder ratio flexibility.

3.42. 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. Of these six children, a maximum of three may be young children, and there should only be one child under the age of one. A child is a young child up until 1st September following his or her fifth birthday. Any care provided for older children must not adversely affect the care of children receiving early years provision.

3.43. If a childminder can demonstrate to parents and/or carers and Ofsted inspectors or their childminder agency that the individual needs of all the children are being met, exceptions to the usual ratios can be made for example:

- 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 adult.

3.44. 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. Children may be left in the sole care of childminders' assistants for two hours at most 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. For childminders providing overnight care, the ratios continue to apply and the childminder must always be able to hear the children (this may be via a monitor).

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1170108/EYFS\\_framework\\_from\\_September\\_2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1170108/EYFS_framework_from_September_2023.pdf)

[How staff-to-child ratios work - Ofsted: early years \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

In November 2023 Solihull LA along with other West Midlands Local Authorities and WM Ofsted. We looked at common questions that we all ask childminders to help them consider adjusting ratios and 'continuity of care'.

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**Childminders** - exploring childminder ratio flexibility.

**Questions to consider - childminders and continuity of care exception.**

1. What are the needs of children currently in your care?
2. What are the risks in increasing the ratio (risk assessment)?

What are the benefits?

3. What are your concerns as a childminder?
4. What is the timescale of the extended ratio?

Extra child/ children

one off/ daily/ weekly/ a short time in day

5. What are the views of all your parents- how have you found out this information?
6. What is the impact on your typical learning experiences on those days? What will change?
7. Your premises- how much space is available and what is layout of your home...who else is in your house who will also need to share this space?

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8. In an emergency how will you keep all the children safe?

Please consider these questions as well as the EYFS Statutory requirements when you are looking to add additional children to your numbers.

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