



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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Minimum Standards for Childminding and Day Care for Children Under Age 12

Children's Version

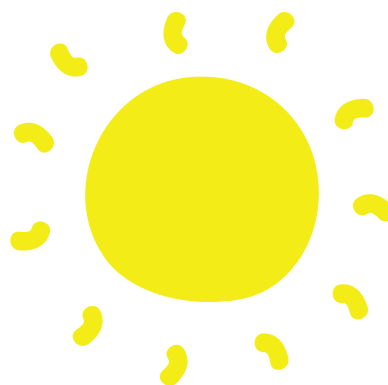


How you should be looked after.

These Minimum Standards are designed to make sure that children who go to a childminder or a day care nursery, out of school club, crèche or pre-school are safe and well-looked after.

All these places have to be inspected and the Standards are the lists the inspectors use to check how well they are being run and that you are being kept safe. If the nursery, childminder, group or club isn't following these Standards, they won't get a good report from the inspectors and will have to change what they're doing.

This is a short guide to what the Standards say and is written especially for children. If there's anything you're not sure about you can ask your childminder or the leader of your nursery, club or group and they'll explain it.



The Standards

Child Protection

This standard is about keeping you safe. Before a childminder or leader can look after any children, checks are made to make sure they know how to keep you safe.

The childminder or leaders should know who will be taking you and picking you up from them and not let you go with a stranger.

If anyone hurts you when you're with the childminder, nursery or club, there will be someone you can tell to make it stop.



Care, Development and Play

This is about what you do when you're at the childminder, nursery or club.

There should be different things so you can choose what you want to do or play with. There should be space for you to be active and a place for you when you want quiet time.



Your childminder or leaders should ask what you like to do and help you have a fun time when you're there.

Health and Wellbeing

It's important that you're kept healthy when you're at the childminder, nursery or club. Everything you use should be clean and if you have an accident, there has to be someone who knows how to give first aid before a doctor or nurse can get there.



If you need to be given medicine or an inhaler, the childminder or leader has to know how to give it to you.

Safety

There are lots of rules to keep you safe when you're at the childminder, nursery or club. The childminder or leader has to make sure these rules are followed. They have to check that the building is safe and there's nothing dangerous in it that could hurt you.



The childminder or leader has to know what to do if there's a fire and has to make sure fire safety rules are followed.

If you go on trips, there are rules to keep you safe in the car or bus and when you're out and about.

Food and Drink

If you get meals, drinks or snacks at the childminder, nursery or club, they have to be nutritious and balanced. Nutritious means healthy, but treats are allowed as long as you don't have them too often. Balanced means you get the sorts of food you need for a healthy diet – meat, chicken, eggs or fish; fruit and vegetables; pasta, rice, potatoes or bread; and milk, yogurt or cheese.



If you have to have special food because of your health or your religion, the childminder, nursery or club has to make sure you get it. If you need a drink of water you should be able to have it whenever you want.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

When you're at the childminder, nursery or club, you have to behave well. The childminder or leader has to make sure you aren't bullied and if anyone behaves badly, they have to have a way of dealing with it.

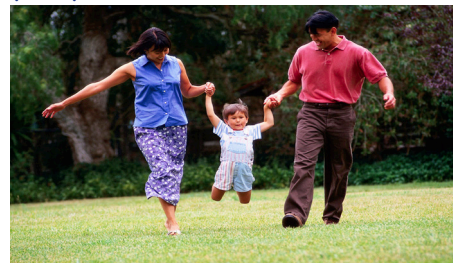
The childminder or leader is not allowed to smack you or frighten you. They will tell your parents when you've behaved well and if you've behaved badly.



Working with Parents

Before you first go to the childminder, nursery or club, your parents will talk to the minder or leaders so they understand what you'll be doing and how you're looked after.

Your parents will be able to see some of your art in displays and photographs on the walls. If they need to talk to the leader or childminder about anything to do with you, they can.



Management Arrangements

This is about how the childminder or leader runs their business.



All the staff have to know what they are doing in their job and be trained to look after you well. The leader has to make sure they're doing a good job.

Equality

This Standard means that no one is treated differently because they're a boy or girl, or because of their religion, age, colour or ability.

You should be able to play with whatever you want and if you have a disability, there have to be things that you can play with as easily as anyone else.



Additional Needs

This Standard is about children who have additional needs. They might have a physical disability that means they need help or equipment like a wheelchair to do some things. They might be deaf or hard of hearing or have problems with their eyes. Or they might have a learning disability that means they need extra help to understand what's happening.

If you have additional needs, the childminder or leader will talk to you and your parents about how to look after you and make sure you are safe and have fun.

You can't be left out of things because you need extra help.



Staffing

This standard is about ensuring there are enough staff on duty to make sure you're looked after safely and well.

The number of staff needed depends on the numbers of children that go to the nursery or club . A childminder has a limit on the number of children they can look after as well.

Before someone can be a leader of a nursery or club, they have to have a qualification that shows they understand how to do the job. They get a qualification when they pass a special type of exam.

Suitable Person

Before someone can be a leader or a childminder, they have to show that they're able to do this important job.

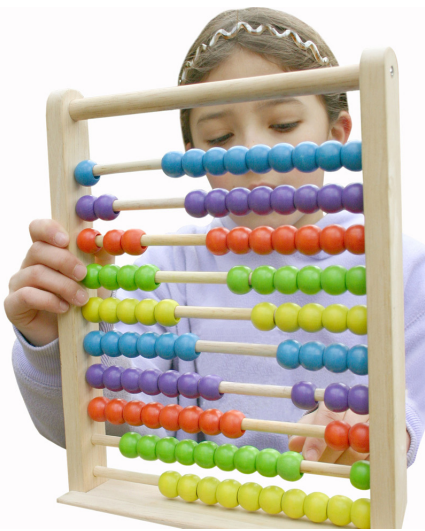
They have to be healthy, show that they are able to look after children safely and won't treat anyone differently because of their age, or because they're a boy or a girl, or different religion, colour or has a disability.



Equipment

Anything you play with at the nursery, childminder or club has to be safe, clean and well looked after. No matter what age you are, there should be toys and equipment that are fun for you to play with and not too easy or difficult for you.

You should be able to choose and reach what you want to play with.



Where you meet

This standard is about the building or rooms that you use and the gardens or outside space. Everywhere you use should be clean and safe so you can't hurt yourself. There should be enough space for the number of children at the childminder, nursery or club.



There should be space for you to play outside, but if there isn't, the childminder or leader should arrange for you to go to local parks to play.

Paperwork

Paperwork is the records or notes that the leader or childminder has to keep.

These can be about you, the staff or the building. There are rules on how these records have to be kept so that only people who need to know can read them.

If your parents want to read what has been written down about you, they can ask to see your records.



Complaints

If someone is not happy about something at the childminder, nursery or club, they can make a complaint.

The childminder or leader has to know how to deal with complaints and how to make sure people are happy with the answer.

