

Guide to Setting Up as a Childminder

Starting a childminding business involves careful planning, understanding your legal responsibilities, and accessing the right support. This guide brings together key information, guidance and useful resources to support you through the process.

1. Setting Up Your Childminding Business

Before you begin, it is important to consider how you will set up and run your business. This includes:

- [Types of business structures](#) Understanding whether you will operate as a sole trader or another business structure.
 - [Market research](#)
Looking at local childcare demand, other childcare providers in your area, and identifying gaps in provision.
 - [Business planning](#)
Developing a clear business plan that outlines your services, pricing, policies, and long-term goals.
 - [Financial planning](#)
Understanding start-up costs, ongoing expenses, income expectations and how you will manage your finances.
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2. Information Sharing Guidance

You will need to understand how to share information safely and lawfully as part of your role as a childminder:

- [Information sharing guidance](#) (GOV.UK)
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3. Support, Guidance and Information for Self-Employed Childminders

As most childminders are self-employed, HMRC provides a wide range of guidance and support to help you meet your tax and legal responsibilities.

- [HMRC guidance for the self-employed](#) (GOV.UK)
This provides help and support to new and growing businesses through:
 - [Their YouTube channel videos](#) (YouTube)
 - [Email updates, videos and webinars](#) (GOV.UK)
 - [Email updates, videos and webinars if you're self-employed](#) (GOV.UK)

HMRC also offers a [ready reckoner](#) (GOV.UK) to help you budget for your tax bill, and a product catalogue listing the support and help available to businesses to meet their obligations to HMRC accurately and on time.

- [HMRC guidance on claiming expenses and keeping records](#) (GOV.UK)
This guidance, alongside the [Business Income Manual guidance](#) (GOV.UK), supports childminders in understanding how they can continue to claim household expenses, including wear and tear deductions, whether or not they use Making Tax Digital (MTD) for Income Tax.
- [HMRC's Making Tax Digital for Income Tax](#) (GOV.UK)
This page explains MTD requirements and provides helpful resources for childminders.

4. If You Employ Staff

If you plan to employ an assistant or other staff, there are additional responsibilities you must meet as an employer. The following guidance and tools are available:

- [Employing staff for the first time](#) (GOV.UK)
- [Register as an employer](#) (GOV.UK)
- [HMRC help and support](#) (GOV.UK)
- [Basic PAYE tools](#) (GOV.UK)
- [Person's legal right to work in the UK](#) (GOV.UK)
- [Making working life better for everyone](#) (ACAS)
- [Equality Act 2010](#) (GOV.UK)
- [Health and Safety](#) (HSE)





5. Training, Business Support and Professional Development

There are organisations that can support your training needs and help you develop a sustainable childminding business:

- **[Business Smart for childminders](#)** (PACEY)

Business Smart is a free online resource from the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (Coram PACEY). It has been developed by childminders for childminders and offers:

- Top tips
- Videos
- Case studies
- Downloadable tools
- Practical ideas to help you develop and sustain your business

