

FIS factsheet

Ofsted Reports and Childminders

Choosing A Childminder – Ofsted Reports

Any childminder who is “Active” and registered by Ofsted will have been inspected to ensure they meet the Childminding Standards set out by the Government Sure Start Unit. Their house will have been inspected and they are required to complete a First Aid course and the Diploma in Home Based Childcare Unit 1 before registration as a childminder. The childminder and any adults (over 16) living and working in the childminder’s home will be police checked (CRB). Every person in the household aged over 16 is also checked by Ofsted. The childminder’s registration certificate should be displayed. The childminder should also have public liability insurance.

Reports from inspections that have been carried out since April 2005 only are now published on the Ofsted website www.ofsted.gov.uk. In order to protect Childminders’ privacy, these are anonymous and can be identified using the Childminders’ Unique Reference Numbers (URN -Ofsted assigned reference number). Warwickshire Family Information Service does not give out Childminders’ URNs as childminders have not given permission for this information to be disclosed, however you may ask a childminder for this information—most childminders will be happy to discuss their inspection reports with you.

Choosing a Childminder – Questions to ask

A childminder’s Ofsted report is only one factor in choosing a childminder and only gives Ofsted’s view of the childminder on that day.

You should also consider:

- What training have they done? How long ago? Have they up-dated their knowledge?
- What facilities do they offer? Is there space to play outside?
- What food and drink is available?
- What will your child do all day?

The best way to get an idea of what a childminder is like, is to visit them and make a list in advance of questions you would like to ask them. You can ask the childminder to show you round where the children will be looked after and look at the toys and equipment to see that everything is safe. Ideally, try and arrange a visit when there are other children there so you can see how the childminder interacts with them.

The childminder should be able to show you their most recent Ofsted report and references from previous parents. You may like to arrange a trial period with the childminder to see how you all get on.

Warwickshire Family Information Service: 0845 090 8044 or 01926 742274