

## 1. “Childminding is easy, everyone can do it.”

**Misconception:** Childminders only supervise children without offering structured learning.

**Reality:** Childminders follow the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** framework and Keeping Children Safe in Education just like nurseries and preschools. They provide learning through play, tailored to each child’s development, make referrals to social care, and liaise with other professionals, including health. They must be registered either with Ofsted or a Childminding agency and pay taxes like any other business. They need to have business insurance and adhere to contracts signed with their Local Authorities if delivering the Funded Early Years Entitlement.

## 🕒 2. “Childminders aren’t regulated or inspected.”

**Misconception:** Anyone can be a childminder without oversight.

**Reality:** All registered childminders in England are regulated by **Ofsted** or a **Childminder Agency (CMA)**. They undergo regular inspections and must meet strict standards for safety, learning, and care, **every 6 years** with Ofsted and usually a yearly quality visit from CMA. Childminders must pay fees to be registered with both Ofsted and CMA. Local Authority where the childminder is operating would make contacts and visits to support the childminder.

## 👤 3. “They can look after as many children as they want.”

**Misconception:** There are no limits on the number of children a childminder can care for.

**Reality:** There are **strict legal ratios**. For example, one childminder can usually care for up to **six children under 8**, with no more than **three under 5** and only **one under 1** at a time. Ratios and numbers are listed in the **EYFS** and as it is a statutory document, the childminder can’t exceed the numbers stated in the regulatory document- **EYFS**.

## 👤 4. “Childminders are unqualified.”

**Misconception:** No training is needed to become a childminder.

**Reality:** Registered childminders must complete **paediatric first aid, safeguarding training**, and demonstrate knowledge of the **EYFS**. Many also hold formal childcare qualifications.

## 👤 5. “Childminding is only for women.”

**Misconception:** It’s a female-only profession.

**Reality:** While the sector is female-dominated, **men can and do work as childminders**. It often happens that both partners in the same household are childminders, or a mother and daughter work together.

♥ 6. “A childminder will replace the parent in a child’s affection.”

**Misconception:** Children may become too attached to their childminder.

**Reality:** A strong bond with a childminder supports emotional development and **does not replace parental attachment**. It can help children feel more secure and confident. Some children thrive in a home-like environment where having more adult attention helps them to coregulate their emotions and feel secure.