

coram pacey

**Coram PACEY
Recruitment Campaign**

January - February 2026



jobcentreplus

About Coram PACEY

Coram PACEY (previously the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years) was formed in 1977. We are a professional association dedicated to supporting home-based childcare professionals including childminders and nannies to provide high-quality services, information and advice to children, their families and carers.

We want all children to experience high quality childcare and early education, helping them to have a bright future.

For more information, please visit: [corampacey.org.uk](https://www.corampacey.org.uk)



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What do childminders do?

Childminders offer professional home-from-home childcare and early education, looking after small groups of children of different ages and from different families.

Childminders are perfectly placed to support the early learning and development for children of all ages, working closely with parents to provide bespoke childcare.



What do childminders do?

- creative play, reading, mark-making, and storytelling with children,
- support early language development, and help children develop their creativity and imagination,
- cook with and for the children, providing valuable real-life learning experiences and healthy, nutritious meals and snacks,
- take children to and from school or their other activities and clubs,
- work with other childcare professionals and parents to provide a coordinated approach to supporting each individual child,
- observe children's progress and work with parents to support their child's ongoing learning and development.

...and so much more



Why choose childminding as a career?

1

It's a chance to earn money from doing something you're good at – run your own **BUSINESS** and care for your own family all at the same time.

2

Looking after small groups of children of different ages and from different families, you'll find **VARIETY** in your role as when you're working with small children, no two days will be the same.

3

Childminding is a **DYNAMIC** and evolving career. Registered childminders are usually self-employed and their own boss. Many go on to expand their business and employ childminding assistants, growing their business.

What is unique about being a childminder?

Childminders provide **FLEXIBLE** care and education in home-from-home environment which can be more responsive to individual children and their families' specific needs, including those with SEND.

They're the provider type most likely to be **OPEN** year-round, including cover during the Christmas period and teacher training days, and more likely to offer the full day provision (8am - 6pm or more!).

Important in rural areas where there isn't enough **DEMAND** for group settings and in cities where places are at a premium.

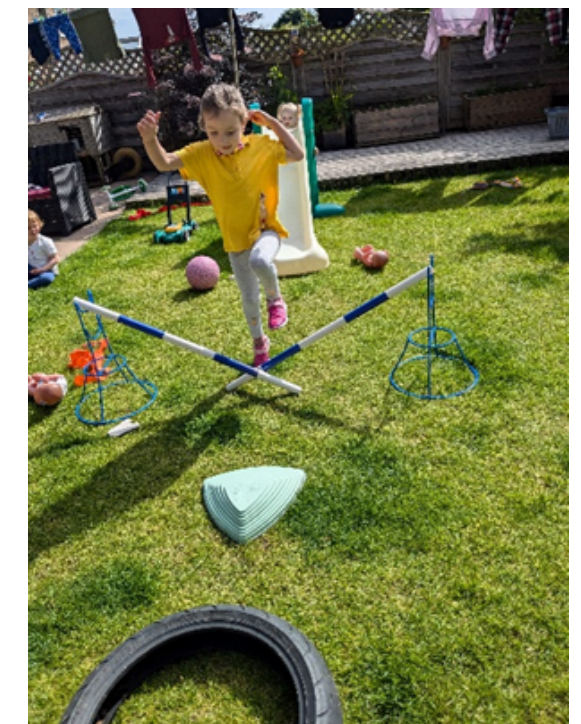
Provide **CONTINUITY** through to school age – wraparound care.

Day in the life of a childminder



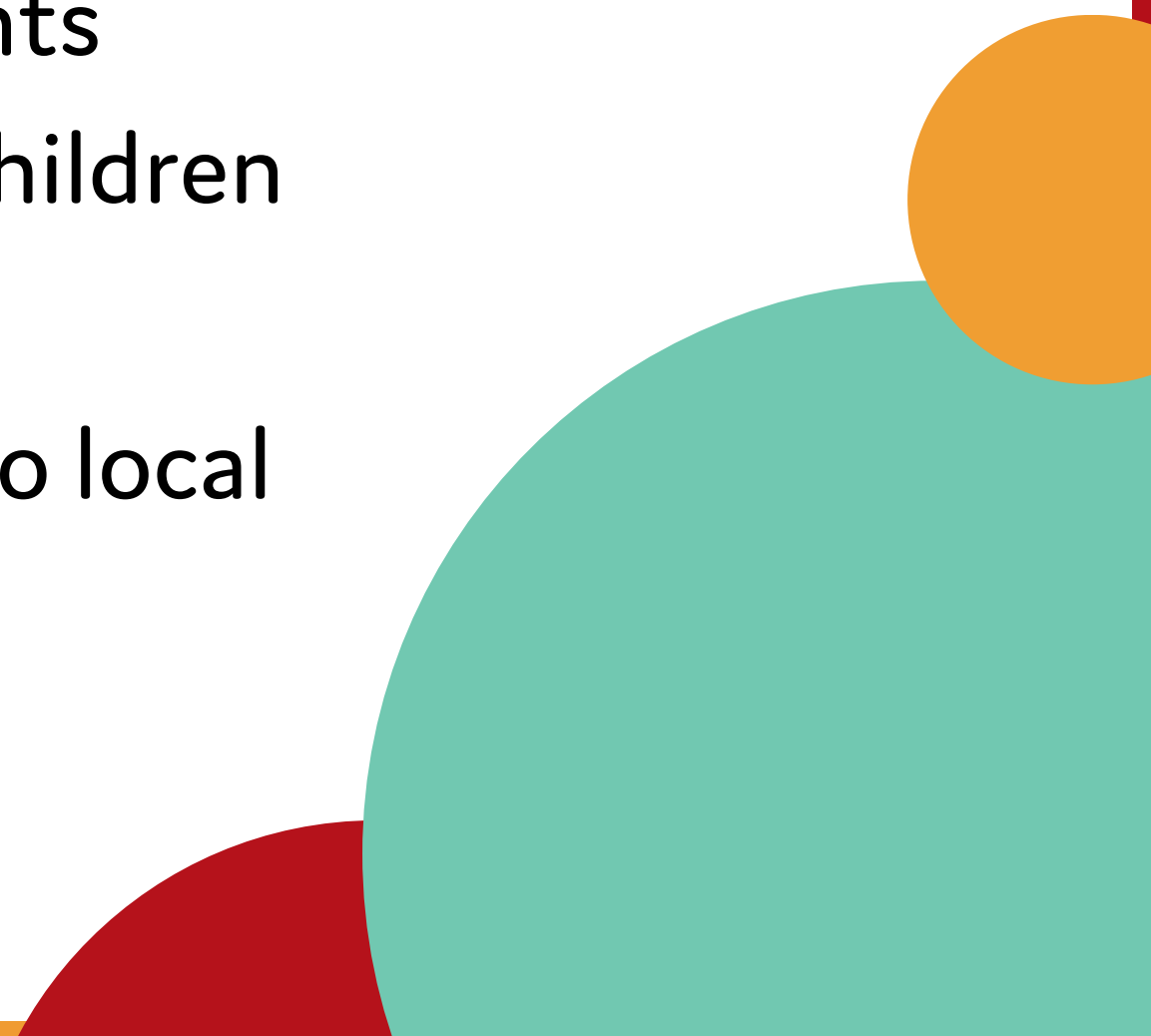
Kimberley Forteach – Little Sunbeams Childminding Service

- Kim has been a childminder in the Northeast of England since 2015, before which she worked in primary and secondary schools.
- A mum of four children
- She has special interests in schematic play, baby led weaning and picky eating.
- Rated Outstanding by Ofsted in both inspections (2017 and 2022)
- Kim works with her assistant Charlotte, who trained with her through the apprenticeship scheme.
- Kim has also worked as a Mentor on the DfE Childminder Mentor Programme.
- Finalist for Childminder of the Year at the Nursery World Magazine Awards 2023
- PACEY Regional Childminder of the Year 2024 – Northeast



Who can be a childminder?

People may be interested in a childminding career if they:

- love to see how children learn and play
 - can build a strong bond with each child to enable them to feel safe and secure
 - can build strong professional relationships with parents
 - can offer a wide range of play opportunities to help children learn and develop
 - would enjoy taking children on outings, for example to local museums and parks
- 



...part of the job description

**“I love my job as a childminder
and would not change it for the
world, spending time with lots of
fantastic children and helping
them develop and grow”**

Coram PACEY member



Becoming a childminder

An individual must register as a childminder if all of the following apply:

- the children are under the age of 8
- they look after them for more than 2 hours a day
- they look after them in their own home
- they get paid to look after them - including payment in kind



Childminder agency

Becoming a childminder

Individuals cannot register if they:

- are under 18
- are related to all of the children they look after
- do not have the legal right to work in the UK
- are barred from working with children
- have been disqualified
- have been refused registration in the past or had your registration cancelled - unless it was because you did not pay your annual fee
- are childminding in a home where a disqualified person lives or works

Becoming a childminder

There are two registers childminders can join, which register they join depends on the age of the children they're looking after.

Early Years Register

- If the childminder looks after children from birth to 5 years old they must join the Early Years Register.

Childcare Register

- If the childminder looks after children from 5 to 8 years old they must join the Childcare Register.

Becoming a childminder

To registering as a childminder with Ofsted, individuals will need:

- an enhanced check with barred lists for home based workers from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)
- first aid training for the age group they will look after
- a health declaration booklet
- contact details for 2 references
- a certificate of good character from an embassy
 - if they've lived abroad in the past 5 years

It usually takes up to 12 weeks for Ofsted to process an application

Start up costs

Coram PACEY's recommended pre-registration training course, Level 3 Award in Home-based Childcare (HBCA).	£294 NOW £250
Paediatric first aid training course	From £85, depending on provider
Disclosure and Barring Service check	From £49.50 plus optional annual renewal fee (currently £16)
Health declaration check	From £35, depending on your GP
Registration on Ofsted's registers *If you join both registers, you'll pay the lower fee. Different fees will apply if you join a childminder agency.	Early Years Register (if you're caring only for children under 5) £35* Childcare Register (if you're only caring for children aged 5-7) £104*
Full membership of Coram PACEY including Coram PACEY Practitioner insurance	From £12.66 per month**
Registration with Information Commissioner's Office	£52

**Save £30 on Coram PACEY Practitioner membership when you complete the HBCA with The Childcare Company and Coram PACEY.

Why we need more childminders

In 2023, the Government announced a significant expansion of funded early years childcare in England for working parents, which was rolled out in phases from April 2024 to September 2025.

Since then, the childcare and early years sector has been rapidly recruiting the workforce required to deliver the expansion, including childminders.

In September 2025, the take up of the entitlement offer was 26% more than expected and there is now a need to further increase the workforce.

Childminder categories

There are two types of childminder categories that you can register as:



1

Childminder (with domestic premises): The traditional model, caring for children in their own home, but now with greater flexibility to work in non-domestic settings.

2

Childminder without domestic premises: A newer category for those working only in approved non-domestic venues, such as community halls, ensuring they never use a home for care.

How to recruit childminders



Do something incredible in 2026!
Become a childminder



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Become a childminder



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Do something incredible in 2026! Become a childminder

Childminders are professional, compassionate and tenacious

They do what they do because they are passionate about children's education and want to give them the best start in life. They are brave enough to run their own business, build their own curriculum and tackle any challenges.

Why become a childminder?



- 1 It's a chance to earn money from doing something you're good at – run your own **BUSINESS** and care for your own family all at the same time.
- 2 Looking after small groups of children of different ages and from different families, you'll find **VARIETY** in your role as when you're working with small children, no two days will be the same.
- 3 Childminding is a **DYNAMIC** and evolving career. Registered childminders are usually self-employed and their own boss. Many go on to expand their business and employ childminding assistants, growing their business.

How do I become a childminder?

Childminding is a professional career where you will be responsible for the care and education of children.

To become a childminder you will need to:

- ✓ Have a passion for childcare and early education
- ✓ Carry out essential pre-registration training including first aid, safeguarding and food safety training
- ✓ Have knowledge and understanding of the EYFS statutory framework
- ✓ Register with Ofsted who will carry out a pre-registration visit
- ✓ Promote yourself and your business and take on children

What do other childminders say?



"I absolutely love what I do, and I truly believe caring for children is my vocation. I just wish I had realised this earlier in my life and not wasted many years in unfulfilling roles. Being trusted to care for the children and watching them develop and grow is an absolute privilege."

Amanda Calloway,
Winner of Childminder of the Year, 2024

coram pacey has resources and training to support your career in childcare.

Scan the QR code below and find out



corampacey.org.uk/careers-in-childcare

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corampacey.org.uk

Supporting new childminders

In collaboration with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Job Centre Plus, Coram PACEY is running a recruitment offer until the 28 February 2026. Our package of support includes:

- Free online briefing 'Is childminding right for me?'
- Save £44 on our HBCA course 'Preparing to work in home-based childcare' delivered by The Childcare Company.
- Free 'Schemas' training course.
- Receive a three months FREE Coram PACEY membership.
- Save £10 on our Cache endorsed 'Safeguarding children for designated safeguarding lead' course.
- Save £12.99 on our RSPH accredited 'Food safety & hygiene' course.
- Free support from our Coram PACEY advisor service.
- Join our first steps to childminding Facebook group (4000+members).

For full details, please visit corampacey.org.uk/careers-in-childcare/childminders/becoming-a-childminder-in-england/

