

Changes to the Childcare Register Sept 2009

CR1.6 Childminders must ensure that they are present on the premises at all times when childcare is being provided, unless they have prior written approval from Ofsted to be absent for short periods of time while another suitable person cares for the children... this did not have the bit about 'unless they have prior written approval from Ofsted' in the previous Standards

CR5.2 Childminders must ensure that a child is unable to leave the premises unsupervised except in the case of children aged eight or over, where the registered person has agreed with the parent of the child that he or she may leave the provision unaccompanied... this said 'older children' in the previous standards, now it says 'aged 8 or over'

CR7.3 Childminders must keep a written record (of complaints), for a period of three years, of these complaints including the outcome of the investigation and the action the provider took in response... this was 2 years in the previous standards

CR7.4 Childminders must inform the parent who made the complaint (in writing or by email if the parent requests this) of the outcome of the complaint, within 28 days of the date the complaint was made... this was 20 days in the previous Standards

CR7.6 Childminders must produce for Ofsted, on request, a list of such complaints made during the previous three years... this was 2 years in the previous Standards

CR12.2 Childminders must inform Ofsted of the following:

- the name, date of birth, address and telephone number of any person aged 16 or over working or living on the premises
- the name, date of birth, address and telephone number of any person working with children

.... this appears to be a new Standard.

EYFS and the childcare register – the differences

When asked, Ofsted replied 'Where providers are on both sets of registers we have set in place an inspection process which focuses on EYFS but will check that providers are meeting the requirements of the Childcare Register'.

Commenting further about how they inspect both registers, Ofsted say,

'The inspector may comment if the care of the later year's children has an impact either negative or positive on the care of the young children. Below is our approach to the inspection for providers registered on both registers.

Inspectors will confirm compliance with Childcare Register requirements at inspection.

1. This should not detract from the early years inspection which must take priority;
2. The compliance confirmation does not involve an inspection of the later years provision or an evaluation of its quality;
3. The inspector should only pursue evidence of non-compliance with the Childcare Register requirements if:
 - The provider or person-in-charge indicates that one or more of the requirements are not being met; and/or
 - Evidence emerges during the course of the early years inspection that one or more of the Childcare Register requirements are not being met. '

Here are the main differences between the registers that need to be reflected in your policies and procedures...

The childcare register says...	The EYFS says...
About assistants...	
This has changed ... see Ofsted factsheet 080289 for more information;	Children can be left with assistants – with permission from Ofsted and parents;
About written policies and procedures	
<p>Childminders must keep and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect;</p> <p>Childminders must make the following information available to parents: copies of the written statements of safeguarding procedures and complaints procedures;</p>	The EYFS does not say that Policies and Procedures must be written but this is expected;
About qualifications	
Childminders must have successfully completed a qualification at a minimum of level 2 in an area of work relevant to childcare, or training in the core skills as set out in the document 'common core of skills and knowledge for the children's workforce';	The only specifications currently in the EYFS are for ICP and first aid. However, this is being reviewed at the moment as part of the 10 year Childcare Strategy and it might change;
About when you are ill or unable to work	
Childminders must make arrangements with other childcare providers or with parents for occasions on which the registered person is not able to provide childcare;	The EYFS does not say this;

The childcare register says...	The EYFS says...
About risk assessments	
<p>The Childcare register says that Childminders must undertake a risk assessment of the premises and equipment at least once in each calendar year, and immediately, where the need for an assessment arises;</p>	<p>The EYFS talks about risk assessments in more detail including giving information in the Guidance about the types of things that must be risk assessed and saying about outings, 'For each type of outing, providers must carry out a full risk assessment, which includes an assessment of required adult : child ratios.'</p>
About retaining records	
<p>Childminders must keep records and retain them for a period of 2 years;</p>	<p>Records relating to individual children should be retained for a reasonable period of time (for example three years) after the children have left the provision</p>
<p>Remember that for insurance purposes you must keep records relating to children for 21 years 6 months (for NCMA) and until the child is 21 (for Morton Michel), just in case an older child wants to sue you for something they remember happening when they were a baby or child in your care.</p> <p>Records that must be kept include the attendance register, your insurance certificate, contracts, personal notes about a child including accident records, medication permissions, Social Services referrals, concerns and any other relevant papers.</p>	
The childcare register says...	The EYFS says...
About the Childcare Register	
<p>Childminders must make the following information available to parents – information about the registration system for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register.</p>	<p>The EYFS does not say this.</p>