



NICMA – the Childminding Association

QUALITY CHILDMINDING CHARTER

The 10 Standards cover every aspect of registered childminding:

1. **Take a professional approach to childminding**
2. **Manage Children's behaviour**
3. **Promote Equality of opportunity**
4. **Respect Confidentiality**
5. **Promote Children's learning and development**
6. **Work in partnership with parents**
7. **Keep Children Safe**
8. **Know about nutrition**
9. **Have good business practices**
10. **Seek Support**

1. Take a professional approach to registered childminding

NICMA childminders:

- are registered and comply with the requirements of their registration
- have suitable insurance cover
- undertake relevant training where possible
- keep up to date with childminding regulations and legislation.

2. Manage children's behaviour

NICMA childminders:

- never slap, smack, shake, bite, frighten or humiliate a child
- take a positive approach to managing children's behaviour

- set clear boundaries for children's behaviour and share these with parents
- give praise and encouragement when children live up to expectations
- respond to unwanted behaviour appropriately, according to the child's age and level of understanding.

3. Promote equality of opportunity

NICMA childminders:

- treat each child as an individual and with equal concern
- give every child equal chances to learn and develop
- take into account each child's age and stage of development, gender, ethnicity, home language and any disability
- encourage children to develop a sense of their own identity and culture
- help children to learn about cultures different from their own, and to develop positive attitudes towards people who are different from themselves.

4. Respect confidentiality

NICMA childminders:

- do not share information about children and families without the permission of the family
- only break this rule in the interest of protecting a child, when they seek advice from appropriate professionals.

5. Promote children's learning and development

NICMA childminders:

- provide play activities and learning experiences suitable for each child's age and stage of development
- support and stimulate children's Social, Physical, Intellectual, Communication and Emotional development (SPICE)
- build learning into everyday activities
- support and complement what children learn at home, school and pre-school
- keep parents informed about their child's progress.

6. Work in partnership with parents

NICMA childminders:

- know that parents are the most important people in a child's life
- recognise that parents know their own child best
- exchange information about each child with his or her parents
- show respect for each family's beliefs, traditions and wishes for the care of their children
- arrange back-up cover for emergencies
- review contracts with parents at least once a year
- understand children's need for ongoing care with the same carer.

7. Keep children safe

NICMA childminders:

- pay careful attention to safety and hygiene

- ensure a smoke-free environment while they are childminding
- make detailed plans of what to do in an emergency
- are aware of signs and symptoms of possible abuse and know what to do if they suspect a child is being abused

8. Know about nutrition

NICMA childminders:

- discuss children's dietary needs with parents
- provide children with a healthy, balanced diet

9. Have good business practices

NICMA childminders:

- keep organised records of children's attendance, personal details and development
- keep accurate written records of accidents and incidents in an accident book
- keep detailed financial records

10. Seek support

NICMA childminders:

- seek advice from other professionals when necessary
- take advantage of the opportunities for mutual support provided by NICMA and local childminding groups