

Childminding Networks are a formal group of registered Childminders who are recruited, assessed and monitored by a co-ordinator. "Children Come First", is a Quality Assured childminding network, which is a national assurance scheme. Childminding Networks provide support and development to childminders in Hackney who have shown that they can deliver high quality, child-centred, home based care.

In Hackney there is a scheme for identifying and supporting quality childminding. The network applies to be 'approved' by National Childminding Association, leading to the network being quality assured. There will be 4 quality assured networks covering:

North Hackney

Areas A, B – based at Woodberry Down Children's Centre

Central Hackney

Area C – based at Linden Children's Centre

East Hackney

Area D – based at Clapton Park Children's Centre

South Hackney

Area E, F – based at Sebright Children's Centre

Each one has an identified Childminding Network Co-ordinator. In Hackney co-ordinators are employed by the Learning Trust. The network co-ordinators ensure quality by offering training, regular monitoring and assessment to enable childminders to develop their skills in providing a quality learning environment.

Joining a network offer lots of benefits to everyone involved, including parents, children and childminders. If childminders join a network they benefit from the support of the Network Coordinator who will:

- Provide suitable training that would enable the childminder to support each other in finding solutions to problems
- Devise an individual training plan for each childminder which will be written on an annual basis and sign post childminders to relevant training, including ESOL, literacy or childcare courses.
- Give professional advice and information to childminders and parents
- Assist childminders to develop individual curriculum for their children and advise on how to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum
- Support childminders in working with parents
- Support childminders through changes in local and national policy
- Help to arrange cover for childminder children when the childminder is off sick, on training or on holiday

Networks also give great opportunity for childminders to meet other child minders in the area so they benefit from support from their peers as well as their network coordinator. Joining the Network also provides benefits for childminders by offering:

- Drop-ins and support sessions
- Access to toy library
- Mediating between parent and childminder when requested
- Support and advice around marketing to secure childminding placements
- Placements through joining a "partner scheme" through the children centres and specialists projects
- Links with other services through Children's] Centre such as professionals in the centres e.g. Health Visitors, Speech and Language Therapist, Social Services.

Joining a childminding Network

- Registered childminders may join a Network if they have been registered for at least 6 months with 6 months experience of working with children as a childminder
- They can only join the network relating to your area.
- On joining a network will be given information about what is involved in being on the network including an explanation of the career progression.
- Childminders that do not meet or fall below the standard required will be supported in the network until it is felt that they are not going to be able to achieve the required standard. They will then be asked to leave.

- Childminders leaving the network will be required to write their resignation. OFSTED will be informed that the childminder has left the network
- All new contracts with network childminders state that if they resign, they will not be allowed back onto the network for up to 3 months. If they return after 6 months they will be expected to complete the initial assessment again.
- Childminders will not be allowed back on to the network if they did not fulfil the requirements of their network contract and the behaviour policy outlined here.

Expectations of Childminders

- To abide by the contract and any agreements made.
- Childminders must maintain the confidentiality of their families and of others in the network.
- Always behave in a professional manner
- Never use inappropriate language around children especially in drop-ins
- Respect each others roles and responsibility (including Co-ordinators)
- To follow rules, policies and procedures of the network and any facility they are using, for example the toy library or the children's centre



Contact us

If you would like to discuss joining a Network please call:

Childminding Development Coordinator
Pippa Williams 020 8820 7632.

Or your local Network Coordinator

Area A/B – Karen James 020 8809 3293
mobile 07989 520222

Area C – Mumtaz Hakim 020 7254 9939
mobile 07768 424023

Area D – Hilary Wilgress 020 8986 7441
mobile 07768 348360

Area E, F – Grace Opon 020 7749 1210
mobile 07810 856321

Hackney Childminding Networks

