

Variations and the EYFS 2014

THIS IS A COMPARISON OF THE EYFS 2012 & EYFS 2014 VARIATIONS REQUIREMENTS. You will see that the requirement numbers are different and childminder agencies are included – but the wording of the requirements relating to ratios and variations is almost the same throughout...

What Ofsted describe as '**overarching 'exceptional circumstances'**' statement –

EYFS 2012 – 3.29 – *'Exceptionally, and where the quality of care and safety and security of children is maintained, exceptions to the ratios may be made.'*

This is clarified in Ofsted document 120117 'Numbers and ages of children providers on the Early Years and Childcare Registers may care for' – 7 - 'Paragraph 3.29 in the EYFS also allows childminders to care for more children, including babies, in the early years age group through an overarching 'exceptional circumstances' statement.'

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/factsheet-childcare-numbers-and-ages-of-children-providers-early-years-and-childcare-registers-may-c>

EYFS 2014 – 3.30 – *'Exceptionally, and where the quality of care and safety and security of children is maintained, changes to the ratios may be made.'*

Note - we do not have any information from Ofsted (07.2014) to suggest that the rules are changing or that the 'Numbers and ages of children providers on the Early Years and Childcare Registers may care for' guidance is being withdrawn.

You will find guidance on writing a risk assessment and explaining variations to parents here -

<http://www.childmindinghelp.co.uk/freeresources/Free%20downloads/changestoconditionsofregistration.html>.

The maximum number of children statement –

EYFS 2012 - 3.39 – *'At any one time, childminders may care for a maximum of six children under the age of eight. The numbers include the childminder's own children or any other children for whom they are responsible – for example, children who the childminder is fostering. Of these six children, a maximum of three may be young children (child is a young child up until 1st September following his or her fifth birthday), and there should only be one child under the age of one.'*

EYFS 2014 - 3.41 – *'At any one time, childminders may care for a maximum of six children under the age of eight (including the childminder's own children or any other children for whom they are responsible such as those being fostered). Of these six children, a maximum of three may be young children, and there should only be one child under the age of one. A child is a young child up until 1st September following his or her fifth birthday.'*

The **sibling babies** (twins or baby brothers / sisters) and the **childminder's own baby** statement -

EYFS 2012 – 3.40 – *‘If a childminder can demonstrate to parents and/or carers and inspectors, that the individual needs of all the children are being met, then exceptions to the usual ratios can be made when childminders are caring for sibling babies, or when caring for their own baby.’*

EYFS 2014 – 3.42 - *‘If a childminder can demonstrate to parents and/or carers and Ofsted inspectors or their childminder agency that the individual needs of all the children are being met, exceptions to the usual ratios can be made when childminders are caring for sibling babies, or when caring for their own baby.’*

The rising 5 statement –

EYFS 2012 – 3.40 – *‘If children aged four and five only attend the childminding setting before and/or after a normal school day, and/or during school holidays, they may be cared for at the same time as three other young children. But in all circumstances, the total number of children under the age of eight being cared for must not exceed six.’*

EYFS 2014 – 3.42 – *‘If children aged four and five only attend the childminding setting before and/or after a normal school day, and/or during school holidays, they may be cared for at the same time as three other young children. But in all circumstances, the total number of children under the age of eight being cared for must not exceed six.’*

Working with assistants –

EYFS 2012 – 3.41 – *‘If a childminder employs an assistant or works with another childminder, each childminder (or assistant) may care for the number of children permitted by the ratios specified above (subject to any restrictions imposed by Ofsted on registration).’*

EYFS 2014 - 3.43 - *‘If a childminder employs an assistant or works with another childminder, each childminder (or assistant) may care for the number of children permitted by the ratios specified above (subject to any restrictions imposed by Ofsted or the relevant childminder agency on registration).’*

If you are unsure about any of the requirement changes please ask.

Sarah Neville / Knutsford Childminding – www.knutsfordchildminding.co.uk ~ e-books for childminders.

Independent Childminders Facebook group – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/independentchildminders/>.

Childminding Forum - <http://www.childmindinghelp.co.uk/forum/>.