

Before and after school care

We have had a lot of questions about before and after school / wrap around care recently, so I thought a quick blog might be useful.

Fees vary - I suggest you check what the local clubs and childminders charge first to make sure your fees are appropriate for your area. Remember when setting your fees that older children generally eat more than the little ones and can go through craft materials like a whirlwind.

When to charge - most childminders charge either -

- A before and after school rate from, say 7.30am - 9am ... then 3pm - 6pm or...
- Their normal hourly rate.

Remember that you cannot charge for the actual journeys to and from school - you are not a taxi and HMRC will take a very dim view of you asking parents for money to ferry their children about. You might need to consider this carefully if the school is a long way from your house.

Food - will you include it in your daily / hourly rate or charge extra? If you intend charging extra for food, how much is a reasonable amount? What does the local before / after school club charge? How much food is affordable - a snack after school and tea or just tea? What will you do if children come back from school saying they are 'starving' and you haven't budgeted for snack?

What to do with the older children - the Childcare Register 2012 does not include any information about learning and development requirements. There is no requirement to write a Learning Journey file or send diaries home. Many childminders make photo albums or memory books with the older children to record festivals and celebrations, special events, play and fun times together but it is not required.

Ofsted are unlikely to inspect you on the older children unless there is a clear breach of the requirements eg you haven't given parents a copy of your safeguarding and complaints procedures... you haven't done risk assessments... you haven't met the other Childcare Register requirements.

You will need a copy of the Childcare Register. I suggest you print it out (it's not long) and go through it, noting how you meet each of the requirements. This will be your evidence for Ofsted -

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/factsheet-childcare-requirements-for-childcare-register-childminders-and-home-childcarers>

This document tells you what Ofsted are looking for during Childcare Register inspections -

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/conducting-childcare-register-inspections>.

If you have any questions, please ask!