

## Professional discussions and CPD

When you join in a professional discussion on the Independent Childminders [Facebook group](#), [Childminding Forum](#) or elsewhere, you are supporting your Continuous Professional Development (CPD) – you are learning new things and discussing them online with other professionals to build on your knowledge.

There is less and less formal (free) training available for childminders and CPD can be used as an important part of your self-evaluation, whether you use the Ofsted SEF\* or your own document\*\*. You can also share CPD with your childminder colleagues when you visit their homes, attend groups or go on outings together to help them learn new things and enhance their CPD.

It is important that you record your CPD so that you can share what you have learned with Ofsted (Care Commission or CSSIW) during your inspection. Your inspector will want to see that you are continuously improving and learning new things to enhance your provision and ways of working with the children.

You might jot down the following information while it is fresh in your mind and use it for your future action planning... and then include it in your SEF –

- Date –
- Discussion topic –
- Website link (if relevant) –
- What did I learn?
- What am I going to use / change in my provision?
- What can I share with children's parents to enhance children's learning at home?
- What ideas do I intend sharing with colleagues?
- Do I need to update / add a new action plan to my SEF?
- How has my learning impacted on outcomes for the children?
- What feedback have I received from parents?

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\*Ofsted SEF prompt -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/independentchildminders/612575098763901/>

SAF prompt for our Scottish members -

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/independentchildminders/741250905896319/?stream\\_ref=2](https://www.facebook.com/groups/independentchildminders/741250905896319/?stream_ref=2)

\*\*Advice if you do not use the Ofsted SEF -

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/independentchildminders/708057705882306/?stream\\_ref=2](https://www.facebook.com/groups/independentchildminders/708057705882306/?stream_ref=2)

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**Note** – I have written a series of 3 Information Guides for Childcare.co.uk gold members about CPD – you will find them when you log in - <http://www.childcare.co.uk/information/childminder-plus>.

I have also written a full SEF and CPD guide – it is e-book 18 on my [Knutsford Childminding](#) website.