

# Briefing note on food hygiene regulations and enforcement with regard to registered childminders

## Do Childminders need to register as a food business?

Since 2014, childminders have not had to complete a separate food premises registration as is required by other food businesses. When childminders register with OFSTED the Local Authority will be informed.

## Will I need to be inspected?

Whether or not you will need an inspection will depend upon the extent and nature and of food handling you do as part of your child-minding business. As a guide;

If you provide no more than the following levels of food service as part of your normal business, you will generally **not** be considered as requiring an inspection.

- a. Provision of mains drinking water.
- b. Provision of crockery and cutlery for use by children to eat their own packed lunches.
- c. Provision of chilled storage for packed lunches that belong to the children.
- d. Occasional assistance to children with cutting up their own food in response to individual need rather than as an established service.
- e. Occasional provision of food that is not part of the normal service (e.g. a cake to celebrate a child's birthday or provision of food where a parent/guardian has been delayed).
- f. Operating in the child's own home and serving food that belongs to the child's parent/guardian e.g. nannies or home childcarers.

Even if you do not need to be inspected there is a general duty in law that anyone who provides food for others, however infrequently, and even if it is given away free, that it must be safe. (EU Regulation 178/2002)

## What happens if I do need to be inspected?

The Food Safety Team have produced guidance for childminders regarding what to expect when an officer makes contact to decide whether or not a childminder needs a food hygiene inspection, and what happens if an inspection is deemed necessary. This guidance is available from The Childminding Support Team.

## Do I need a Food Safety Management System?

If you provide meals for children or babies and/or reheat food provided by parents or carers then you will need to produce a food safety management system. Fortunately the Food Standards Agency has produced a simple template system that can be downloaded free from:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sfbb-childminders-pack.pdf>

## Will I get a food hygiene rating?

Childminders have been specifically excluded from the food hygiene rating scheme by the Food Standards Agency and so where inspections are carried out no food hygiene rating will be awarded.

## Do I have to inform the Food Safety Team if I change the food handling in my business?

It is really helpful if you let us know if you have stopped working as a childminder or if you are starting to handle more food or indeed if you have stopped handling food as part of your business. This will avoid you being unnecessarily contacted if we no longer need to. You can phone on: 0117 922500 or email [food.safety@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:food.safety@bristol.gov.uk)