

Dear Parents

SCA is a childcare agency that registers, supports and regulates childminders. Started in Suffolk in 2016 we have now expanded to cover a large area of the country. SCA is managed by a team of Early Years Professionals with over 38 years of experience in childcare, nurseries and teaching. Our first Ofsted inspection was in 2017, when we were graded as effective in all areas.

We are dedicated to providing comprehensive, efficient and valuable support to our childminders to enable them to offer the best possible childcare for children and their families. For us, this is exceptional pastoral care that promotes the well-being and personal development of children alongside a high-quality education that builds on children's abilities, targets next steps and prepares them for their eventual move to school.

1. Registration and continual monitoring of every childcare setting:

Registering as a childcare provider is a lengthy process which not only requires an enhanced DBS but also involves suitability checks with several different external agencies. A pre-registration visit of every setting is also carried out to ensure childminders' homes are suitable for children and that applicants have the capability and knowledge to work with children. At SCA, once a childminder is registered their DBS and suitability to work with children is regularly checked. All childminders are assigned an Agency Manager who visit the setting regularly to carry out progress checks and support visits; this ensures all SCA childminders are adhering to the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework. We also talk to childminders about their children's progress, the curriculum they are providing and ensure they are meeting the needs of all their children.

2. Childminders are inspected yearly:

At SCA, our childminders are inspected yearly. Inspections follow a similar format to an Ofsted inspection where each childminder is given a grading. Childminders are given a report and action points that are shared with parents and carers at their settings. Following an inspection, the childminders' Agency Manager will support them in making any improvements to their setting and practice.

3. Childminders have access to first class training:

Finding high quality courses and affordable prices can be really hard and time consuming. Childminders with SCA have unlimited access to over 350 online courses with an Ofsted regulated training hub. In addition, SCA offer childminders numerous opportunities for face to face training, such as Paediatric First Aid and Safeguarding. As a condition of their registration, SCA childminders need to complete a certain number of hours training a year to ensure their practice is up to date with current guidelines and they are continually improving their teaching skills. This ensures our childminders are delivering excellent care and education for their children.

4. Childminders have unlimited support:

Agency registered childminders have access to unlimited support. At SCA, behind every childminder is a team of highly experienced childcare experts with a range of skills from childminding settings, nurseries and teaching. We ensure all our childminders fully understand the Early Years curriculum, are able to make

accurate assessments of children's abilities and know how to access Early Help and support for children with SEND. SCA have links with Ofsted, the DfE and local authorities which enable us to keep our childminders up to date with any changes to legislation. In addition, we run support groups and well-being groups for our childminders to enable them to generate their own network of practitioners to share ideas and experiences to further develop their practice.

5. Tax free childcare and Early Years funding:

Childminders registered with SCA are automatically able to receive tax-free childcare and Early Years funding for parents. Funding for childminders and parents can be difficult to navigate and often parents end up not receiving all the funding they are entitled to and not fully understanding how to stretch funding hours over the holidays. Our SCA advisers help childminders understand the funding system better so they can ensure parents have access to the funding they need and have the flexibility to use their funded childcare places when they need to. We also offer support directly to parents who have questions about the Universal 15 and 30 hours home entitlement scheme.

At SCA, children are at the heart of all we do and our ultimate objective is to enable all children to reach their full potential and ensure they have the best possible start to their education.

If you would like to talk to a member of the team to find out more about SCA then please do not hesitate to contact us.

With kind regards

Claire Chapman
SCA Director