

Baby Sitting & Child Minding Guidance

Opening Statement

This guidance aims to inform members of our community about legislation and advice that may have an impact on their home life and the care given to their children, specifically with a view to inform around babysitting and childminding. We hope this information will allow parents to make a more informed choice when choosing their babysitter or childminder.

Background Information

- In law, children are people aged 0 – 17, up to their 18th birthday.
- Baby sitting / Child minding falls into two categories: Children 0 – 5th year up to 31st August of that year which we might call baby sitting. Children 5 – 17 years, up to their 18th birthday, we can call child minding.
- Parents and Guardians should make themselves aware of the background and experience of who takes care of the very young.
- For full information about childcare availability in your area, you may contact your local authority's family information service for information on the facilities that childcare providers in your area offer. You can find your local family information service through the National Association of Family Information Services (NAFIS).
- Government childcare rules regulate this once casual arrangement. For example: Parents who have sitters & minders under 18 years and un-Ofsted registered sitters & minders for over two hours, can be penalised for negligence should any accidents happen that affect the child whilst the sitter is caring for their child.

Legislation

- Ofsted have a list of rules that child-carers must adhere to and it seems these rules also apply to parents looking after other people's children - particularly if it incurs a 'reward'.
- Laws may be broken if you:
 1. care for someone else's child who is under 8 years old for more than two hours a day in your own home or someone else's home (not the child's own home);
 2. are paid to care for someone else's child for more than 14 days a year, irrelevant of their age and aren't registered by Ofsted;

3. provide care outside of the 'exemption hours' of 6pm - 2am.

- Some types of provider do not need to register with Ofsted. You can find details of these in the factsheet *Registration not required*, available from the Ofsted website.

Advice and Guidance

- Parents & Guardians are advised that siblings are not always the right choice, due to rivalry, resentment and concerns around their own development.
- The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Babysitting Guidance, last updated on 12.11.14, is essential reading if you have a sitter come to your home.
- The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has some excellent tips for choosing a babysitter.

Compliance

- This information provided by the Safeguarding Team of South Devon Steiner School comes to you as guidance only. For further information and updates in legislative regulations please consult the websites below.

References

- **RoSPA** <http://www.rospace.com/school-college-safety/teaching-safety/whole-school-approach/babysitting/>
- **NSPCC** <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/leaving-child-home-alone/>
- **NAFIS** www.daycaretrust.org.uk/nafis
- **Ofsted** Information for parents about Ofsted's role in regulating childcare Age Group 0 - 18 published January 2013 Reference No. 120335 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425824/information_for_parents_about_ofsteds_role_in_regulating_childcare.pdf

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Date:

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