

## Parents Information

### Looking for a Childminder

#### Questions to Ask

1. How long have they been childminding, how long do they intend to continue, and can they give you the name and telephone number of other parents they work for? They should be happy for you to follow up these references.
2. What are the ages of the other children they look after - including their own- and which ones will be there at the same time as your child? It's a good idea to book one of your preliminary visits when these children are there, to see how well they mix.
3. What is the childminder's routine? How often do they take the children out, and where?
4. What age-relevant activities will they do with your child? How much time do the children in their care spend watching television? What kind of food do they provide?
5. Can you negotiate for the childminder to take your child to extra activities, such as ballet classes, cubs, pre-school etc?
6. What is their attitude and policy on key issues like sleep, potty training and setting boundaries for behaviour?  
*Be sure that you discuss and agree on the approach you would like them to take with your child.*
7. How does the childminder fit in household chores? Do they shop, or take other children to school while your child is in their care?
8. There are bound to be jobs they do while your child is napping, and occasions when they go out to the shops. But how often and how will it affect your child's day?
9. What other adults will be in the house, and how do those adults feel about the arrangement? Can you meet them?
10. Check what the arrangements are if your child is ill, and who the childminder would call on in an emergency. For example, if they had to take one child home or to hospital, who would care for the others?