



EYFS Changes – What childminders need to know

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As childminders, we know how important it is to stay on top of changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). From September 2025, several updates came into effect, and I wanted to share a clear overview from one childminder to another – so we can all feel confident, prepared, and supported.

By Claire Fitzgerald: Stronger Practice Hub Partner and Childminder



1. Safeguarding and Welfare



Training requirements

All childminders and assistants must now complete updated safeguarding training that includes online safety, safer eating, and the recognition of less obvious forms of neglect.

Some local authorities are providing pathways, and Ofsted will expect this to be refreshed regularly.



Whistleblowing

Clearer expectations are now set out.

Childminders must have a whistleblowing policy in place, even if working alone, and know who to escalate concerns to beyond the setting.



2. Safer Eating and Allergy Awareness



Guidance has been strengthened following national reviews into choking incidents.

- We are now expected to prepare food in line with new safer eating guidance (e.g. grapes cut lengthways/quarters, cut food long and thin, no popcorn for under 5s)
- Keep allergy management plans for every child with a known allergy.
- Share allergy information with assistants and ensure procedures are understood by anyone preparing food.



3. Safer Recruitment

Even for childminders who only occasionally use assistants, safer recruitment principles apply.

This includes:

- Documented recruitment processes.
- Two references checked and recorded.
- Clear induction and supervision records.
- Ongoing suitability checks, not just at the start.



4. Learning and Development



The seven areas of learning remain unchanged, but there's a stronger emphasis on:

- Supporting self-regulation as part of personal, social and emotional development.
- Embedding early language and communication as a thread across all areas, with fresh links to the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) research.
- Continuing to keep assessments light-touch, focusing on professional judgment and high-quality interactions.



5. Working in partnership with parents



The EYFS now makes clearer references to **family engagement**.

Childminders should be actively sharing strategies with parents for promoting learning at home – particularly around language, early maths, and behaviour regulation.



6. Paperwork and Policies



Ofsted has confirmed there is no requirement to create excessive paperwork, but



- Policies such as safeguarding, safer sleep, safer eating, and whistleblowing must be up-to-date.
- Records of training, supervision, and suitability checks must be available if requested

My Reflections

While these changes might feel like “another thing to add,” they actually strengthen the high standards we already work to.

Most of us are already putting children’s safety, wellbeing, and learning at the heart of what we do – these updates simply make our responsibilities clearer

If I can give one tip, it would be to update your policies first, then schedule time for any training gaps. That way, you’ll feel confident if an inspector walks through the door.

We’re in this together – so let’s keep supporting one another as we adapt to the September 2025 framework.

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childminder network**

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