

The DfE Childminder Mentor Programme

Work with a mentor to reflect on your practice and develop areas of your choosing.

As childminders we don't have a staffroom, or built-in opportunities to reflect upon and develop our practice with others – this programme is designed to bridge that gap. An opportunity to reflect on your provision and receive support from a passionate, knowledgeable and supportive mentor.

Childminders joining the programme will receive support from a mentor for one term. Support is flexible and designed to fit around your schedule, so it can take place during evenings or weekends if this is what works for you. You can apply for support individually, or as a group (of between two to four childminders).

Some childminders join the scheme with very specific ideas of what they would like to develop, other childminders work with their mentor to identify which areas they would like to focus on. We have a wide range of childminders on the programme so far - from new childminders looking to develop their knowledge, to experienced, outstanding childminders who are looking to continue their professional development. It is suitable for anyone who would like the opportunity to develop their practice alongside a mentor.

The majority of mentors working on the programme are childminders themselves, they have been selected by the Department for Education to offer mentoring because of their knowledge and experience in the early years sector.

Examples of areas the programme has supported childminders with:

- The revised EYFS
- Knowledge of child development
- Creating an effective curriculum, personalised to the needs of the children in your care
- Using effective interactions to support communication and language development
- Building strong relationships with parents
- Working with children with SEND
- Building confidence – supporting childminders to recognise their strengths
- Supporting children after Covid19
- Supporting disadvantaged children
- Working with children who speak English as an additional language

Sign up for support here:

www.hempsalls.com/covid-recovery-childminders

If you have any questions about the programme or would like to find out more, you can contact the area lead for West Sussex, Maddie, by emailing starlingschildcare@gmail.com.

The scheme is running now until July 2024. The closing dates for each term are as follows:

- Autumn term the deadline for submission will be **31st July 2023**,
- Spring term the deadline for submission will be **30th November 2023**, and
- Summer term the deadline for submission will be **17th March 2024**.