Hackney childminder testimonial

"After attending very comprehensive training to become a childminder through Hackney Learning Trust, I registered with Ofsted and did a further assessment to become a quality assured Network childminder.

I have a Network Coordinator who visits me regularly to discuss training opportunities, my childcare practice, activity planning, safeguarding, and to offer advice and guidance about all the children in my care.

Her support, and that of the local authority has been invaluable, and has helped me develop as a childcare practitioner, and develop my own knowledge and skills, especially in areas such as Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and Sustained Shared Thinking.

Coordinator's also support us to prepare for Ofsted inspections, signing off Progress Checks, and planning meals and snack which meet the required guidance for children's dietary requirements in the early years. My Coordinator also runs dedicated childminder drop ins in local Children's Centres, which gives me the opportunity to meet with other Ofsted registered childminders, other Children Centre professionals, and for the children in my care to interact and socialise with other children.

Having Coordinators based in Children's Centres has also meant they are very accessible to offer a range of support. Being on the Network has made me feel less isolated and part of the local authority 'bigger picture' in terms of working in partnership to ensure all children's needs are met.

I have been able to take referrals from Family Support teams, Health Visitors and Speech and Language therapists, and have attended several training courses facilitated by Hackney Learning Trust and run by some of the most well-known and respected early years consultants, authors and trainers.

The support offered to me through my local authority Childminder Network membership has helped me to constantly reflect on my practice and to develop my own knowledge, skills and abilities in order to offer high quality childcare to local families.

If you are thinking about a career as an Ofsted registered childminder please do contact Hackney Learning Trust, who will offer training, support and advice from the moment you start and ongoing once you are registered with Ofsted."

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