

Holidays

Although very rewarding, childcare is also a very high stress occupation. In order to be the best childminder I can be, I need to take time to relax with my family, accomplish household projects or attend training/seminars. Similarly, it is expected that parents will want to take annual holidays to spend time with their families, either at home or elsewhere. Parents may choose to take their holidays when the childminder is closed, to avoid the need to pay for a substitute childminder. With this in mind, I will provide as much notice as possible of my holiday closures. Where your payment date occurs during a holiday period, you are required to make your payment prior to the commencement of the holiday (except where you have already arranged automated payments).

Annual Holidays

Up to 4 weeks closure per year are charged at half fees. This will typically include a week at Christmas, 2 weeks in the Summer Holidays and a week at Easter or during the Summer half term. Any closure over and above 4 weeks, will not incur any charges. I will notify parents as soon as possible of the actual holiday closure dates. Any prior requests for childcare will be taken into account when selecting holiday's dates. Please be aware that it is not always possible to accommodate such requests, however early they are received as I need to ensure my holidays co-incide with Myke's.

Bank Holidays

If the bank holiday falls on a contracted day then absence fees will be charged, as stated on your contract. If you have a term-time only contract then you will only be charged if the bank holiday falls on a school week; there will be no charge for bank holidays *in the middle* of school holidays. If the bank holiday does not fall on a contracted date there will be no charge as I would not be expecting to care for your child anyway. However if you do require childcare, as per the rate specified in your contract, please do give plenty of notice to avoid disappointment.

Training Days

Childminders are required to undertake regular training to keep up-to-date and comply with the requirements of their registration and to provide a quality service for your child. Sometimes it is possible to undertake training at weekends or during the evening and I will do so where possible. However, a number of courses are during the working week or require home study. I may take up to 2 days per year for training purposes at half fees.

Childminder Closure

If I need to close at any other time (eg, to attend a funeral, additional training) there will be no charge for the period I am closed. However any late fees will continue to accrue, so please ensure your payments are up-to-date while I am still open. If this has not been possible, due to lack of notice of my closure, please arrange a bank transfer or post a cheque to me. I will give you as much notice as I can, however please be aware that there may be situations where I am not able to give advance notice, eg if I am sick or involved in an accident.

Parent Holiday/Days Off

Please give me as much notice as possible if you intend taking your child out of childcare for a holiday or days off. Full fees are payable for the contracted hours during your holiday and, if you will be away on a payment date please be sure to make your payment before your holiday commences to avoid late payment fees.

There will normally be no refunds or adjustments made for days missed due to your child or your family's illness, holidays or days off, nor will any reductions be made if your child arrives late or is collected early. A place has been reserved for each child and that cannot normally be filled on a short-term basis. The exception to this is if I have been able to use your place for another child, in which case I will waive or refund your fees for the period your place was used and paid for by another family. If you will be away on a payment date, please ensure you make your payment beforehand to avoid late fees being applied.