Supporting home based childcarers

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What is NCMA?

The National Childminding Association is a membership organisation which started from very small beginnings in 1975 to a current membership of approximately 42,500

We offer support services of

- Public liability insurance
- An advice line
- Field staff who offer support, advice and expertise to Local Authorities and childminders

- Resources to help childminders run their businesses efficiently, such as account books, child registers and contracts

- A bi-monthly magazine Who Minds?

ncma

We also have quality assurance schemes specifically for homebased childcarers

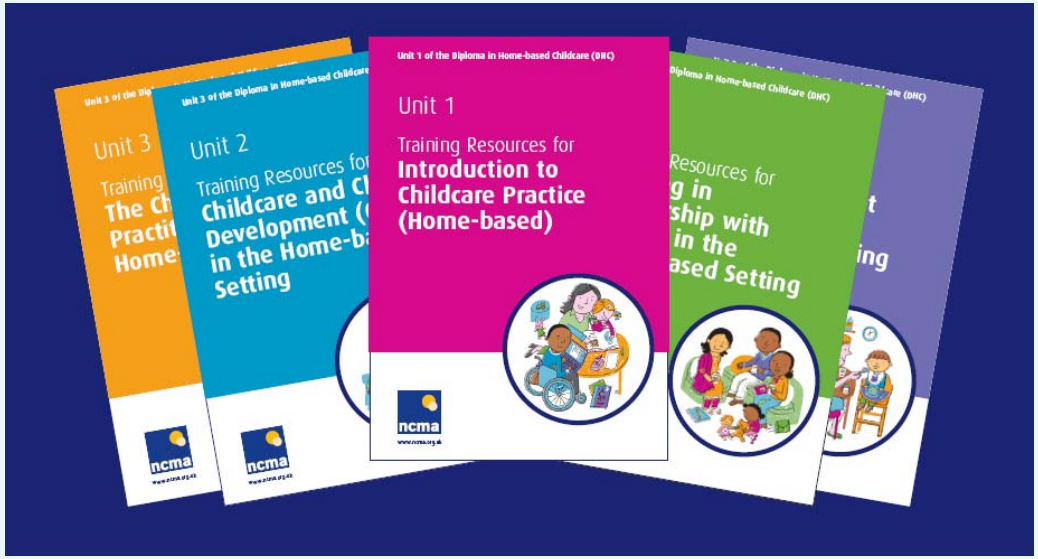
- Quality First for individuals

- Children Come First networks

Training is an important part of NCMA

- We are able to offer either one off, or a programme of workshops, specifically geared to the home based childcarer's situation

- The NCMA/CACHE level 3 accredited Diploma in Homebased childcare course is very popular, with unit 1 – the Introduction to Childminding Practice used in many Local Authorities as the preparatory course for their childminders

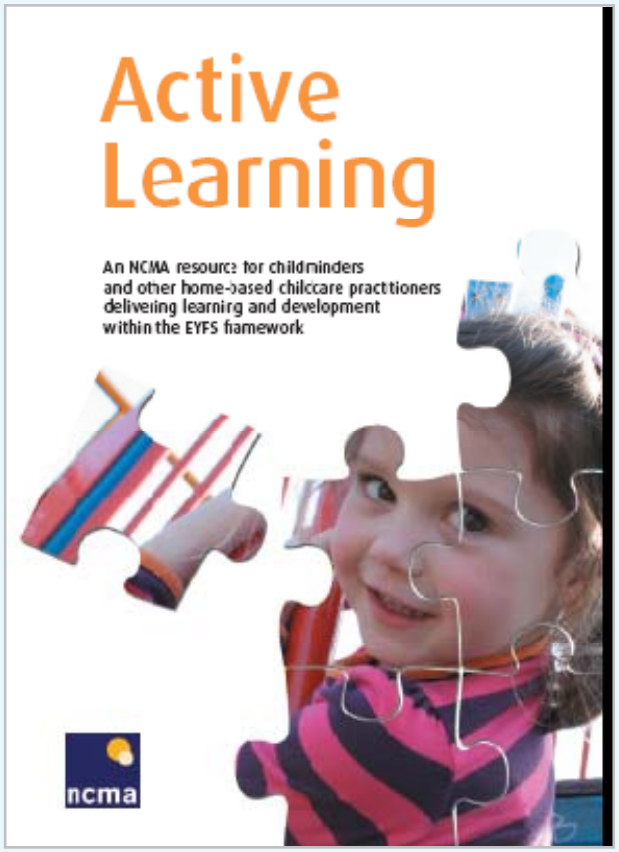


- We are also licensed with CACHE to deliver the Certificate in Early Years Foundation Stage, and initial take up of this is very encouraging

EYFS support

- NCMA delivered a huge number of the training sessions, formulating training packages which were tailored to the homebased childcare situation.
- A series of articles were run in Who Minds? magazine

- Active Learning, an NCMA booklet with simple ideas on observation and assessment was launched, and has proved to be very popular. To date we have sold over 30,000 copies.



- Stickers covering the 6 areas of learning have proved to be very popular too

- NCMA products were reviewed and amended to reflect EYFS requirements
- Changes to the CCF network paperwork are now on the website and the feedback on this has been very positive.

Has all this had any impact?

- It is probably too early to say for sure.

  However……

- To assess how registered childminders were progressing with the Early Years Foundation stage, NCMA spoke to 120 childminders who had their inspections in the first three months after its launch on 1 September 2008

Key findings

The main findings from the survey were:

- The majority of childminders interviewed (70 per cent) achieved good or outstanding inspection grades.

- The majority of childminders we spoke to felt they were responding well to delivering EYFS and did not feel weighed down by excessive paperwork

- Tailored training and support was highlighted frequently as invaluable to childminders in achieving positive inspection results

- Self evaluation forms were considered lengthy and challenging but the majority felt it supported the inspection process

- In some cases, childminders had achieved an improved inspection outcome.

- A SEF ‘tool’ is available as a free download from the NCMA website and childminders are finding this extremely helpful.

- An improved catalogue of support resources is due out very soon.