



Walsall Childminder Stay & Play: Learning, Connection and Community

Being a childminder can sometimes feel like a lonely profession. While we spend our days nurturing children and supporting families, opportunities to connect meaningfully with other professionals in the sector can be limited. That's why the Walsall Childminder Stay & Play Group is such a valuable and much-loved part of our local early years community.

Running every Tuesday morning during term time, this welcoming stay and play group takes place at The Family Hub in Blakenhall, Walsall, and is open to all professional childminders and the children in their care.

A Space for Childminders to Come Together

At the heart of the group is a strong focus on professional connection and support. The sessions provide a relaxed, friendly environment where childminders can come together, share experiences, ask questions, and offer advice to one another.

Whether you're newly registered or highly experienced, there is always something to gain from being alongside others who truly understand the realities of childminding. From discussing Ofsted expectations and EYFS updates to simply having a chat with someone who "gets it", the group offers vital peer support that strengthens practice and wellbeing.

Alongside this, each session includes bite-size professional development, making learning accessible, practical and relevant. Topics are carefully chosen to support evidence-informed high-quality early years practice and often spark rich discussion and reflection.

These creative professional development activities encourage childminders to reflect on their role, share ideas, and take away something useful to apply directly within their own settings.

Meaningful Experiences for Children

The stay and play group offers a rich range of play-based activities that support all areas of development in line with the EYFS.

Children have opportunities to:

- Explore age-appropriate toys and resources
- Take part in creative and sensory play
- Develop social skills through interaction with peers
- Enjoy songs, stories and group activities

Being in a larger group also helps children build confidence, experience new routines, and form friendships beyond their usual setting all within a safe and nurturing environment

Celebrating Together

The group isn't just about learning and play its also about community and celebration. Seasonal events, such as the much-loved Christmas party, give both childminders and children the chance to relax, have fun, and enjoy being part of something special together.

Fully Funded and Free to Attend

The sessions are fully funded by the Stronger Practice Hub, meaning there is no cost to attend. Childminders simply bring themselves and the children they mind making this an accessible and inclusive opportunity for all.



Maggie Dixon Little Buds Childminder

I've been childminding for 10 years. It's a busy role, but one I absolutely love. I'm Level 3 qualified, with an NPQ in Early Years Leadership. I'm also an Early Years SENCo, a Thrive Together Stronger Practice Hub partner. I also lead the Walsall childminder stay and play group.



Join Us

Location: The Family Hub, Blakenhall, WS3 1HJ

When: Every Tuesday, 9:30am - 11:30am (term time only)