



## What is a variance?

A variance is permission from Ofsted to work outside of your normal registration. It is normally for a limited period of time and for a particular reason.

For example: You are currently caring for two children aged 3 and 4 years from different families. Both Mums have second babies within a few months of each other and want you to continue to care for their older child and take on the new baby. You would need to apply for a variance to have two babies under one for a few weeks/months and to have four children under 5 for a few weeks/months until the oldest child is in full time school.

## How do I apply for a variance?

You will need to apply to Ofsted in writing setting out your requirements and provide supporting information on how you are going to cope caring for the additional child.

Include:

A chart detailing how many children you care for each day, their ages and whether they attend school/pre-school. Highlight the times when you will be over your registration and for how long this will apply.

Your experience of caring for young babies (if you are applying for two babies under one years old)

Training you have done on the Birth to three matters framework

Resources available to you (highchairs, pushchairs, car seats etc)

How you will safely transport the children, often a variance will mean you will be unable to fit all your children in the car.

Back up plans in case of emergency and additional support if required.

How you will plan activities to keep all the children actively involved.

Warning: Do not take on additional children assuming you will get a variance. Ofsted don't always grant a variance. Variances are more likely to be granted if you have been working in childcare for a while and have had experience of caring for twins etc.

If a variance is granted you will receive a letter detailing Ofsted's decision and then a new Registration Certificate. This must be displayed during minded hours.