

Is-adran Gofal Plant, Chwarae a Blynyddoedd Cynnar  
Early Years Childcare and Play Division



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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<b>Status:</b>	<b>For action</b>
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<b>Title:</b>	<b>National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare for Children up to 12 years – Standard 13.4(CM) Extension to lead in time, and two other miscellaneous changes.</b>
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**Issued by:**

Clare Severn/Rebecca Johnson Acting Deputy Directors, Early Years Childcare and Play Division

<b>Addressed to:</b>	<b>Please forward to:</b>
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Care Inspectorate Wales  
Social Care Wales  
Welsh Local Government Association  
Local Authority Chief Executives  
Local Authority Childcare Co-ordinators  
Local Authority Play Co-ordinators  
Local Authority Flying Start teams  
AWARE  
Local Authority Family Information Services  
CWLWM Childcare Consortium  
Play Wales

All registered child minding and day care services and other interested parties

## Summary

This Circular Letter is issued with the agreement of the Deputy Minister for Social Services. Please ensure that its contents are communicated to all interested parties as soon as possible.

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to advise the childcare and playwork sector in Wales of an extension to lead in times for Standard 13.4(CM) of the [National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare](#) and of two other miscellaneous changes.

## For further information contact:

E-mail: [childcareandplaymailbox@gov.wales](mailto:childcareandplaymailbox@gov.wales)

Website: [www.gov.wales](http://www.gov.wales)

### **The National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare for children up to the age of 12 years: latest changes**

In May 2023, the Welsh Government published an update to the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare which introduced a new standard for Child minders working with assistants as set out below:

13.4(CM) Any assistant employed by a child minder must have successfully completed an appropriate course recognised in the Social Care Wales's Qualification Framework. Assistants are required to have attained the required qualification by the end of November 2023.

This circular extends the deadline to meet this requirement until 30 November 2024. This is to allow sufficient time for an appropriate course to be accessed and completed. The standard now reads as:

**13.4(CM) Any assistant employed by a child minder must have successfully completed an appropriate course recognised in the Social Care Wales's Qualification Framework. Assistants are required to have attained the required qualification by the end of November 2024.**

We have also used this opportunity to make two additional changes to the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare as follows:

1. In June 2023, following feedback from stakeholders representing both the education and childcare sectors and with careful consideration, the Deputy Minister for Social Services and the Minister for Education and Welsh Language agreed that the term early childhood education and care (ECEC) would be replaced with Early Childhood

Play, Learning and Care (ECPLC). Therefore, the NMS now reflects the change in terminology.

2. The wording at footnote 14 in Annex B on page 72 of the NMS which reads:

‘Face to face means trainers are physically present with their trainees, where possible. This excludes the use of online platforms.’

has been amended to read:

**Face to face means trainers are physically present with their trainees. This excludes the use of online platforms.**

This clarifies the position concerning the mandatory face to face training required for Emergency Paediatric First Aid.

Please now refer to the latest version of the NMS published online, dated November 2023. Please recycle any paper copies you may have printed to ensure you are referring to the latest version of the Standards.