I work as a childminder from a cabin in my garden. I sometimes use my house for a sleeping baby.

My hours of business are 7.30am - 6.30pm although most days I do not start at that time or finish at that time.

I have approx 6-7 parents dropping their children in the morning on an average day. I usually have 2 parents drop at 7.45, 1-2 at 8am and 2 at 8.15am. 1 child leaves at 1.30 and another child arrives at that time then 1 child arrives at 2pm and another one leaves at 2.15pm. The majority of the children leave between 4-5pm. I have 1-2 children that go between 5-6. Sometimes all children are gone by 5pm.

Drop off and collections are kept brief. If parents have anything to discuss then they will do this via the phone or message. I have a bell on my gate which the parents ring, I then bring the child through my side access and utility room into the cabin. The parents do not come in. On collection I bring the children out to their parents.

I have parking on my drive for 3 cars which parents can use or they will park on the road. There are no restrictions in my road and plenty of parking. There is parking in my road and in the road next to me. The parents do not park across anyones drive and I have sent text messages to all parents to explain to them where they can park. The most parents that I have turn up at one time is 2. It is usually a quick and quiet transition. I have tried to stagger the times as much as possible to ensure that noise and traffic is kept to a minimum.

Any staff that I may employ are asked to park away from the house and walk to allow plenty of parking spaces around and on my property for parents.

Once the children are in the cabin the doors are kept closed. This minimises the noise that can be heard from outside. There is usually at least one child asleep at a time. When we go in the garden sometimes depending how many children there are we take them out in 2 groups. One group will go outside first and the others stay inside and do an activity and then we will swap them round. We do this to minimise the noise outside and are conscious of our neighbours.

When we are outside the children are just generally playing. We don’t allow any unnecessary screaming and if a child is crying we will usually bring them into the cabin to deal with.

We are always conscious of our neighbours and do all we can to reduce the impact of our business on them. We have spoke to our neighbours on one side of us and asked them how the noise is impacted on them and they said that they don’t really hear anything. They said sometimes they can hear them playing but they like the sound of children paying. I have said to them if they are unhappy at any point then to speak to me and I will put further measures in place where possible.

We have worked hard and are very proud of the business that we have established. We have been able to help local parents during the pandemic with childcare and we are in the position where we have been able to offer people employment as well.