

Types of childcare –
nurseries,
childminders,
playgroups and
mother and toddler
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Day nurseries are an all day care facility for young children aged five and under. Many parents would choose to send their children to a day nursery as they are open all day and throughout the term. They provide a safe, fun environment for children to learn and play. Staff who work at the establishment must have completed a course in first aid and also food hygiene if they are dealing with any kind of food. Nursery nurses have to have a level three qualification.

Nurseries are very flexible to suit the parent's needs. Children can attend full time, part time and also in the mornings. Many day nurseries are open the same as a regular school day but some have longer hours. Prices can differ with different day nurseries.

Payment can be made at an hourly rate or every session. Some private nurseries can be very expensive as sometimes parents will be charged for extras such as breakfasts, lunch and snacks. Day nurseries will have a daily routine and should have a safe, happy environment for children for them to play and develop. There must be a place where babies can sleep and activities for the older children such as singing and dancing and other toys they can play on their own with such as play dough, dolls and toy phones and playhouses. Nursery schoolsA pre – school group is a child care facility for young children connected to a primary school they provide safe care and activities for children between the ages of 3 – 5 years but they make take children from 2 years.

It gives young children the chance to play and interact with children the same age as them. They have their own staff with trained nursery teachers

and assistants. The nursery would be inspected every year and will possibly offer a Government-approved early year's curriculum. Nursery schools are usually open the same time as schools, from 9am to 3.

30pm but you would normally be offered a morning session, afternoon session or all day. Nursery schools are free as they are funded by the local education authority, which is good as many families may not be able to pay a lot for child care, but still get the same opportunities as if you would have to pay. The number of adults to children is essential, for the safety of the children the staffing ratio being 1 adult to every 4 children aged 2 year and 1 to 8 for 3 5 years. They provide activities such as singing nursery rhymes and games young children have the opportunity to play and socialize with children of the same age.

And become involved in group activities such as sand play, looking at books with pictures and bright colours and dress up. It is a wonderful way to slowly familiarize young children to a learning environment. So that it is not shockingly different when they start primary school. ChildmindersA childminder is a self - employed professional carer who provides a child with learning opportunities but in a family environment. They must be registered with the office for standards in education, when registered they are checked for training, their police record and their home is inspected to ensure it's a suitable and appropriate environment for children. It is often a hard decision to make employing a childminder as they will be in charge of looking after your children and will need to be a good influence on them.

There isn't a set time for a childminder as they are solely responsible for the child/children throughout most of the day; some childminders can also offer to care at the weekend or overnight. There are no set prices for the service of a childminder but payment is typically made at an hourly rate.

Childminders should offer many different kinds of activities and games, but by using educational books and toys it can still be entertaining, singing nursery rhymes is also a fun and educational way to motivate young children. Children learn from what their parents do so they will also learn from what the carer will do therefore the childminder need to act professional, reliable and trustworthy. A childminder is a liable way to care for your children as they are in a comfortable environment and the attention can be focused on only one or a few children consequently all of the child should be happy and content.

PlaygroupsA playgroup is a place where young children between the ages of 3 and 5 meet up together. Children can learn and play whilst supervised by adults. Playgroups are usually based in hired out halls. Playgroups are registered and must be inspected every year.

They are run by leaders and at least half of the adults there have to be trained or have a qualification for looking after children. They are not run for profit. There is normally a small fee to pay to help go towards hiring out the hall and paying for any equipment or food. Your child will be amongst children of their own age and will have many learning opportunities with play.

And will usually have access to a government approved early years curriculum, Parents can usually become involved. There is usually an outside area where they can play but mostly activities are organized like stories, nursery rhymes and games, where children can learn needed skills like writing. Playgroups are a great place for children to learn and interact with children the same ages as them, and parents can also become involved and meet other adults and parents who also have young children to look after. But it is not always ideal as they may only have a few hours in a session therefore additional childcare may be needed which can be an unnecessary nuisance. Mother and toddler groups A mother and toddler group is very like a playgroup as they are held in hired halls. Parents bring their own children from any age between zeros to four years.

They are run by the parents and volunteers. They do not run every day like a pre – school does and are typically only a few sessions a few days a week. The people who organize it and run it do not need any qualifications as they come with their own children. They are not run for profit. There is normally a small fee to pay to help go towards hiring out the hall and paying for any equipment or food. Mother and toddler groups are aimed at parents in the same situation with very young children.

It helps for both to socialize and meet new people that they may not meet in every day life They are a great idea, parents can talk and interact with other new parents and could help to ease the pressures of a having a very young baby into their lives. When the children have outgrown mother and toddler groups they can easily move onto playgroups which are very similar and could maybe even stay with the same children.

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