

Choosing Calderdale Childcare

This checklist can be used to help you find the right childcare for your children.



tel: 01422 253053

Step 1: Identify what type of care you are looking for. Below are basic descriptions of types of provision; however services offered can vary.

Childminders/Home Childcarers - Childminders are self employed and look after your child in the childminder's home. Childminders care for up to six children of various ages. They are often able to offer more flexible hours and are registered and inspected by Ofsted if they care for children aged under eight.

Day Nurseries - Most Day Nurseries are run as private businesses. Some are based in Children's Centres. They usually cater for children aged from three months to five years. They are usually open Monday to Friday and are registered and inspected by Ofsted. Some also run out of school clubs for older children.

Pre Schools - These are often located in places such as community centres and church halls and tend to be run by voluntary groups of parents. They care for children aged from two and a half to five years. Most pre-schools offer shorter 2½ hour sessions, although

some are open for longer. Most tend to run during term time only. They are registered and inspected by Ofsted.

Out of School Clubs/Holiday Clubs - These are usually based at schools, community venues or day nurseries. If the club cares for any children under eight, it will need to be registered and inspected by Ofsted. Most clubs operate sessions before and after school and some run during the school holidays too.

Nannies - A nanny is employed by you directly and can either live in your home or live out. Many are qualified childcarers. It is not compulsory for them to be registered with Ofsted but they may be registered on the Voluntary Childcare Register. You employ the nanny for the hours you need and are responsible for meeting employment law requirements.

Step 2: Get a list of registered providers from your Calderdale Families' Information Service by:

- Telephoning 01422 253 053
- Emailing fis@calderdale.gov.uk
- Texting 07624 803657
- Visiting us at Northgate House, Halifax

Step 3: Plan some visits.

Try to see at least two or three different settings. On your visit, use the checklist on the reverse of this form to take note of your findings.

Remember – you have the right to see all training certificates, setting policies and Ofsted* reports.

* Ofsted is a Government department responsible for the registration and inspection of childcare

Questions to Ask & Things to Observe	Provider One	Provider Two	Provider Three
The Setting/ Premises:			
Are the premises bright and clean? Is there enough space?			
Is there a variety of suitable toys for the children to play with and are there appropriate activities on offer?			
Can you see a copy of the registration, insurance and Ofsted documents?			
Are the premises secure? Is the equipment safe and what safety procedures are in place?			
Will the children have the opportunity for outside play?			
The Childcare Workers & Children:			
Have First Aid and Food Hygiene training been undertaken recently?			
What other training and experience do the childcare workers have?			
Does the setting have a low ratio of turnover in staff?			
Does each child have a key worker who engages with them more closely and provides you with feedback?			
Are the children and childcare workers interacting in a positive manner?			
Are the children playing together, sharing and showing consideration for others?			
The Care:			
Is there a policy in place for managing children's behaviour and do you agree with it?			
Are the children supplied with healthy meals and snacks? Is water available whenever children want it?			
Are there any additional charges for snacks, school pick-ups, etc?			
Does the setting have a Parents' Information Pack?			
Does the setting have a flexible settling in period for the child?			
Can you speak to other parents about the care on offer?			
Has the setting undertaken a Quality Assurance accreditation?			
Does the setting provide Early Education places?			



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Remember, not every setting will be right for you and your child so be prepared to look around - you will find the perfect match.

If you need further advice, please call the Families' Information Service on 01422 253 053