

Keeping
Young
Children
Safe



Camden Safeguarding
Children Board

Advice for parents of young children attending private, voluntary and independent nurseries, and in the care of childminders.

Finding the right childcare for your young child is a very important responsibility for parents and carers....

As a parent, you want to ensure that your children get the best possible start in life and that they are supported to fulfil their potential. You want to know that the childcare you choose will keep your child safe and help them to develop and thrive.

This guidance will help you understand what to look for in a childcare provider.

Choosing a childcare provider

When you are ready to choose a childcare provider it is advisable to look at their inspection reports on the OFSTED website. Childminders should be registered and you will need their unique reference number to see inspection reports. You can also request a copy of the inspection report from the childcare provider, as well as their policies and procedures. These will include safeguarding and child protection.

Make sure that you visit the nursery or childminder before you make your choice. During your visit observe and consider the following:

- does the setting have a friendly feel
- is it clean, light, big enough for children to be active indoors and outdoors
- are there places where children can rest
- are the toys, resources and activities varied and do they reflect diverse cultures and lifestyles
- do the children look and sound happy
- do the staff/childminder respond positively and sensitively to each child's behaviour
- are there sufficient numbers of staff for the numbers and ages of the children



Questions to ask childcare providers

During your visit ask the following questions:

- how does the provider manage children's behaviour
- what action will they take if there are concerns or complaints about the staff in the setting
- what is their staff supervision policy
- are the premises secure and what emergency procedures do they have in place
- how does the provider report safety incidents to parents
- what training do the carers have, for example in child protection, first aid and child development
- what happens if you are late picking up your child
- what food is provided and will it meet your child's individual cultural and dietary needs
- who can you talk to about your child's progress
- what happens if your child becomes ill
- are the children taken on trips and visits and how is this managed



After you have chosen the provider

The Early Years Foundation Stage

Once you have chosen a provider, give them clear information about your child's likes and dislikes and any health issues they may have. It is also important to inform providers about major events or disruption at home.

After a few weeks, you might want to go back and speak to the provider to find out how your child is getting on.

Make sure you also talk to your child to ensure they are happy and comfortable with their childcare provider.

The legal and good practice framework for all providers of childcare for children from birth to five years old is laid out in detail in the **Early Years Foundation Stage** (EYFS). Nurseries and childminders must be registered with OFSTED, operate within the EYFS framework and carry out the requirements of the EYFS.

The EYFS covers the following:

- General welfare requirements
- Safeguarding
- Information and complaints
- Premises and security
- Equality of opportunities

Getting more information

You can find out more about the EYFS by looking at the Department of Education website:
www.education.gov.uk

You can find out more about the law in relation to childcare by looking at the OFSTED website:
www.ofsted.gov.uk

If you are not satisfied that the provision you have chosen is safe and suitable, ask questions and observe the setting when children are present. If you want to make a complaint or are still not satisfied, you can call the OFSTED complaints line **0300 123 4666**

If you would like further information about childcare provision please contact **020 7974 1679** or consult the following websites:

- Childminding: www.ncma.org.uk
- Nurseries and childminders: www.ofsted.gov.uk
- Early Years Foundation Stage: www.education.gov.uk

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