

Different types of early years providers - Appendix 1

| | Provision | Description of offer | Ofsted |
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| Private, voluntary or independent (PVI) | Day Nursery | Generally open all year round; usual core hours 8am – 6pm; registered with Ofsted to take children from 3 months – 5 years; can be a stand-alone setting or part of a chain of nurseries; often privately run with a single proprietor | Must join the Early Years register if caring for children aged from birth to 31 August after their fifth birthday. |
| | Pre-school | Usually operate in line with school hours so open term time only, 9am – 3.30pm; often run from church/community halls; often “pack-away” (need to clear rooms on a daily or weekly basis to allow for other uses); Often committee run | Need to meet all the safeguarding and welfare and the learning and development requirements of the Statutory requirements for the early years foundation stage. |
| | Independent | Operate as part of an independent school; term-time only; hours based on the school day | Not required to register on early years register unless taking children under 2 years |
| | Childminder | Most commonly a lone practitioner working from own home; all year round provision; usually core hours 8am-6pm; able to work with assistants; several now affiliated to a Childminding Agency | Must join the Early Years register if caring for children aged from birth to 31 August after their fifth birthday. Need to meet all the safeguarding and welfare and the learning and development requirements of the Statutory requirements for the early years foundation stage. |
| School | Maintained Nursery School | Stand-alone nursery school with head teacher and at least one Qualified Teacher Status staff member; qualified school SENDCo (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator); term-time only; usual hours 9am-3.30pm | Not required to register on early years register unless taking children under 2 years |
| | Nursery Class | Operate as part of a school or academy, led by school headteacher/principal; term-time only; usual hours 9am-3.30pm | |
| | Nanny/Au pair | Also known as ‘home childcarers’; look after children of any age in the child’s own home. Can look after children from 2 different families at the home of one of the families. | Only need to register on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register if want parents to be able to get help with childcare costs. |