

# Day Nurseries



## What is a day nursery?

**A day nursery offers care and learning opportunities for children up to the age of 5 years old. Some are registered to care for babies from six weeks old. Most are open 8.00am-6.00pm, usually for 50 weeks of the year.**

Some day nurseries offer out of school care for older children, including during the holidays.

## Do day nurseries have to be registered?

Yes. The Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) registers and inspects day nurseries. They consider the suitability of the people who care for the children and there are requirements relating to staffing, qualifications, space, light, safety, access etc.

## What is the adult to child ratio in a day nursery?

There should be a minimum of one staff member to every three children under the age of 2, one to every four children aged 2 and one to every eight children aged 3 and over.

## Can day nurseries offer free early education provision?

Yes, if the day nursery received a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' following their Ofsted Inspection

Call the Children and Families Information Service to find out the nurseries who provide funded places.

## How much do day nurseries charge?

Most day nurseries in Cumbria are privately run, so charges vary. Ring the Children and Families Information Service to find out current rates.

## How do I choose?

Try to visit more than one day nursery before making a choice. Look around, speak to the staff and consider the following:

- Do staff play with the children?
- Are the children happy and occupied?
- Does the equipment look clean, safe and appropriate?
- Is there a sleeping area?
- Is there a variety of toys and books?
- Is there a safe, secure outdoor play area?
- Are entrances and exits secure?
- What is their discipline policy?
- What do they do during a typical day?
- What is provided, e.g. meals, nappies etc?
- What is their policy on potty training?
- What happens if your child is ill?

Discuss fees and payment, ask to see their registration certificate, inspection notes and insurance document. If possible, take your child with you and see how they get on with the other children, staff and the surroundings before making your final decision.

You can download their most recent Ofsted Inspection Report from the government website at: [www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report)

## For more information please contact:

**Children and Families Information Service,  
Children and Families Services, Cumbria House,  
117 Botchergate, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA1 1RD**

**T: 03457 125 737**

**E: [childrens.information@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.information@cumbria.gov.uk)**

**[www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrenservices/childrenandfamilies/cfis.asp](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrenservices/childrenandfamilies/cfis.asp)**

If you require this document in another format (eg CD, audio cassette, Braille or large type) or in another language, please telephone 01228 606060.