

## 4. Day nurseries

### What is a day nursery?

**A day nursery offers care and education for children up to the age of 5. Some are registered to care for young babies. Most are open 8am until 6pm and care is usually provided all year.**

Some 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 years provision?

Yes, if they have passed the assessment visit from a local authority officer. This is in addition to the inspection carried out by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted). Call the Children and Families Information Service to find out more.

### 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 find a day nursery?

Contact the Children and Families Information Service.

### 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.



For more information please contact:

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