

Different types of Childcare

The Family Information Service (FIS) holds information on all Ofsted registered and non-registered childcare in the borough. We endeavour to keep this information as up to date as possible, so that parents in the borough can be as well informed as possible. In this guide are explanations as to what each type of provision on our lists offer.

Childminders are Ofsted registered professional daycarers who look after children in their own homes. They offer a flexible service, caring for children aged from birth to sixteen years. They are only allowed to look after up to six children between the ages birth to eight (including their own). They can have more children if they work in partnership with other childminders or assistants. The service offered is unique to each family's needs and many childminders provide evening, weekend and school holiday cover. All childminders will have completed a training course including paediatric first aid.

Nanny/Home childcarers are carers, which look after children in the family home. They can fit in with unusual hours and working patterns. They can register with Ofsted on the Voluntary register, to allow families to take advantage of tax credits. This however is not compulsory.

Day Nurseries can care for children aged from birth to five years and usually offer day care from 8am to 6pm, for most of the year. All day nurseries will be registered with Ofsted and inspected regularly. You can view inspection reports by visiting www.ofsted.gov.uk They can be run by private individuals, community groups, Montessori organisations, commercial businesses or by employers.

Private Nursery Schools (aka Private Independent Schools) are owned privately and can offer sessional or full day care to children aged two to five. Some schools can offer a particular educational approach, for example Montessori. They may operate only during term-time or could open all year. They could be registered with Ofsted or the ISI (Independent School Directorate)

(LEA) Maintained Nursery Schools offer full and part-time early years education places, typically between school hours. They are attached to primary schools. A child can attend for a full or half day. Nursery schools may also offer childcare after school (see out of school clubs).

Pre-schools and playgroups offer care to children in their local community, either as a morning or afternoon session or as extended sessions including lunch. They are often run by voluntary groups but can also be run by private individuals. They care for children aged from two to five years and are usually open during term time. They differ from day nurseries in that they offer sessional based care and admit children from the age of two years old. They can be registered with Ofsted or unregistered.

Independent Schools are owned privately and cater for children aged from three to sixteen. The schools are registered with Ofsted or the ISI but make their own arrangements concerning staff numbers qualifications and curriculum. If the school participates in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum, it will be inspected by Ofsted.

Out of School Clubs (aka Play Centres) provide safe and stimulating play opportunities for school age children at times when schools are not open. They can operate before school in the mornings, from the end of the school day and at the end of the working day, throughout the school holidays, or a combination of all three. They typically cater for children aged four to fifteen but some non-RBKC run clubs might look after younger children.

Activity Clubs offer a range of activities for school-aged children. They are usually not registered as childcare but often run at the end of the school day or during school holidays.

Parent and Toddler groups are drop-in sessions for parents that have young children. These sessions will be run by other parents, by the voluntary sector or in Children's Centres. They will not be registered with Ofsted, as they provide less than two hours worth of care in a day.

Difference between registered and unregistered care.

Registration of providers will occur with Ofsted. For provision for under 5s, Ofsted initially visit premises to inspect suitability and interview the lead applicant. Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks are performed of all people that will provide any level of care and for childminders, those that live on the premises.

When registration is granted, a registration certificate is issued which providers must display when they are providing childcare so that parents can read it. The certificate sets out the conditions of registration. Conditions restrict or provide permission for the registration to operate in a particular way, such as limiting the number of children a provider may care for or allowing overnight care. **A provider may not begin caring for children until they receive their certificate**

After a childcare provider is registered, Ofsted follow up with a first inspection within seven months of starting to care for children. Regular inspections of the quality of care follow this first inspection at least once in every three to four year period and in some cases more often. During an inspection, a provider is checked to ensure it is meeting the minimum requirements for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

For over 5s provision, there is no initial visit but upon registration Ofsted can inspect a provider at any time.

Unregistered provision will operate for under two hours in a day and typically are toddler groups, crèches or other activities for children. It is recommended that parents ensure that they take into account safeguarding their children. This can be done by checking if any staff/helpers have a current CRB, checking any references and ensuring you and your child feel comfortable at the setting.

You can further details about this or any other information from the Family Information Service, please contact us on 020 7361 3302 or by email at fis@rbkc.gov.uk