

What are my childcare options?

	Childminders	Nanny or Au Pair	Day Nurseries (for under 5s)	Preschool (for under 5s)	Out of school club (for over 5s)	Holiday Playschemes (for over 5s)
Where will my child be cared for?	childminders home and out and about	child's own home	purpose-built day nursery	church or community halls, purpose built sites, schools	within the school or off site location with transportation	schools and leisure centres
Ages	all ages	all ages	birth to school age	usually from 2 or 2½ yrs of age onwards	school age	school age to 16+
Opening times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday to Friday 8am until 7pm often flexible 	the hours you negotiate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday to Friday 8am until 6pm likely to be open all year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> term time only usually 3 hours between 9am – 3pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday to Friday 8am – 9am 3.15pm – 6pm (usually) term time only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> school holidays Often 8am – 6pm Monday to Friday
Waiting times	start looking 3 months before you need a childminder	you employ the nanny so allow enough time to organise reference checks etc	can be long, especially for under 2s put your name on waiting list early	recommend having name on a waiting list before your child is 12 - 18 mths old.	can have waiting times for a place	can get booked early.
Price	from £45 to £60 for a full day*	varies on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> experience qualifications whether on Ofsted voluntary register any other duties they do 	from £45 to £60 for a full day*	from £10 to £16 for 3 hours unfunded*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> breakfast - £4-£8 after school - £10-14 	from £30 to £50 for a full day*
Staff ratios	can look after a maximum of 6 children, including their own, under 8 yrs old: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 under 12mths 2 x 12mths to school age 3 x school age 	your own child or children but you can look at nanny shares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 adult to 2 babies (under 2 yrs old) 1 adult to 4 toddlers (2 yrs old) and 1 adult to 8 pre-school (3-5 yrs old) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 adult to 4 toddlers (2 years old) and 1 adult to 8 pre-schoolers (3-5 yrs old) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> full time and part time you have set days that your child attends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> usually morning or afternoon sessions some can offer lunch clubs to extend the day.
Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> full time and part time can be flexible with days, times and term time care 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> full time and part time you have set days that your child attends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> usually morning or afternoon sessions some can offer lunch clubs to extend the day. 		

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Funding	some offer free entitlement hours for 2, 3 and 4 yr-olds	no	many offer free entitlement hours for 2, 3 and 4 yr-olds	many offer free entitlement hours for 2, 3 and 4 yr-olds	not applicable	not applicable
Childcare voucher	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Tax credits	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Ofsted	yes	can be but do not have to	yes	yes	yes	yes
EYFS**	▪ yes	no, but some may	yes	yes	not applicable	not applicable
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ home-from-home environment ▪ mixing in small groups ▪ flexible hours and days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ child is cared for in their own home ▪ if you have more than one child it can be cost effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ your child can go all year until they start school ▪ open even when staff are off 	great for children to socialize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'wrap around' care ▪ child can have breakfast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fun activities during the holidays ▪ Can book individual days or whole weeks
Cons	if child minder is sick you have to find and pay for alternative childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ they do not have to have qualifications ▪ you pay tax and national insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ you need to know the days you need childcare ▪ not flexible with shift working or if you are late ▪ waiting times can be long 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ not full childcare ▪ waiting times can be long 	term time only so you have to organise alternative childcare in the holidays	most do not cover half term and Christmas

Notes:

* This is an overview of your childcare options and some providers may offer different times, prices and have different waiting times. Please check with them directly.

** EYFS = Early Years Foundation Stage