

Childcare checklist

Choosing childcare for your school age child

What to ask breakfast clubs, after school clubs, holiday play schemes and childminders

Choosing the right kind of childcare setting can be a difficult decision but help is available

General questions about the childcare service

- How long have you been providing this service?
- How many children do you care for?
- What snacks/ meals/ beverages are provided?
- Do you offer school pick-ups?
- Do you charge for sick days?
- Are there penalties if you're late to pick up your child?

Policies

- Ask to see the Special Educational Needs and/or an Inclusion Policy
- Ask to see the Ofsted Inspection Report or go to: www.ofsted.gov.uk
- Ask to see up to date registration/approval, public liability insurance certificates
- Check that all the rooms and the garden are insured

Record keeping

- Do you keep a file about the children's progress?
- Will information about my child be confidential?

Activities

- What is the daily routine?
- How will you respond to my child's specific needs?
- Are the children well supervised?
- Is there a safe secure outside play area?
- Will my child be able to play outdoors everyday?
- Will you agree to a trial run?

Staff

- What qualifications do you/ your staff have?
- Do they have First Aid training – ask to see certificates?
- What do you enjoy about your job?
- What is the ratio of children to staff?
- Do you run a key-person and/or buddy system?

For more information about choosing childcare visit: www.hants.gov.uk/childcare

