

## **Types of early years and childcare provision**

### **Maintained Nursery schools or classes:**

- Offer funded early learning for 3 and 4 year olds, during a school term (for 38 weeks of the year). Some schools may offer 2 year old places.
- Are inspected by Ofsted.
- Usually located in purpose built buildings, often within the grounds of a primary school.

### **Day nurseries:**

- Provide care and early education for young children between the ages of 6 weeks to 5 years.
- They are often open for 51 weeks of the year and between the hours of 7.30 am to 6.30 pm (or more)
- They are registered and inspected by Ofsted
- These early years providers work out of converted buildings, children centres, church halls, community halls, guides and scouts huts as well as purpose built facilities.

### **Pre-schools:**

- Are sometimes known as playgroups and operate term time only and are usually open for the same times as a school day.
- They offer places for 2, 3 and 4 year old and most will provide free early learning.
- Are registered and inspected by Ofsted.
- Pre-schools are generally located in church halls, community halls, guides and scouts huts and other suitable premises.

### **Childminders:**

- Provide care and early education for children from birth onwards in the childminders home.
- They set their own hours of business and are often able to offer flexible hours for working parents.
- They are registered and inspected by Ofsted

### **Home childcare / nannies:**

- Provide care and early education for children from birth onwards in the child's own home.
- They set their own hours of work in partnership with the family/ies.
- Home childcarers may care for children from two different families at the home of one of the families. If more than two families use the care at the same time, then it is classed as childminding.
- Some will be self employed and others may have joined an agency
- They can choose to register with Ofsted on the voluntary part of the childcare register

### **After school and breakfast club:**

- Offer play and care to children aged 4 years and over before and/or after school.
- They are usually set up in or close to schools.
- Are registered and inspected by Ofsted, if they care for children aged 8 years and under for more than 2 hours a day.

### **Holiday Play schemes:**

- Offer play and care to children aged 4 years to 12 years (16 years with special needs) with some flexibility around the age group.
- Operate during the main school holidays, usually open daily 8.30 am to 5.30 pm.
- Are registered and inspected by Ofsted.

### **Crèche**

- Offer a safe, supervised play area for a group of children whose parents are occupied in an activity (e.g. education, leisure, shopping) nearby. A crèche cannot provide long term childcare.
- The age range being cared for in a crèche provision may vary and can include babies and toddlers.
- Places are mostly offered for two hours or less, but providers are able to offer to care for children under eight for four hours or less each day if parents plan to stay on the premises where care is provided, or within the immediate area.