

FACTSHEET 15

Choosing high quality childcare

There are many different types of childcare and early learning services. It can be difficult to decide which is best for your child. This factsheet will help you find out more about what makes for a good service.

All childcare and early learning services should have:

- Trained or experienced staff - ready to respond to your child
- Safe and clean premises with plenty of space to play and explore
- Fun activities planned each day with a range and of toys and equipment
- A big welcome for you and your child

1. Trained or experienced staff

Working with children is a skilled and demanding job. Training gives people skills and confidence. It helps staff to deliver a top quality service to you and your family.

Staff need:

- To respond to your child as an individual
- To plan activities and to play to help your child learn
- To help your child be safe and secure
- To communicate well with your child and with you
- To respect your family's culture, religion or language
- To be enthusiastic about their important job

2. Safe and Clean premises

Children deserve comfortable, well-equipped premises, which are carefully looked after. Children should be able to see toys, books and fun equipment and reach some of it themselves. Fresh, healthy food and snacks should be available. Equipment for children with disabilities is

likely to be popular with all the children. When children are asked what they like best about childcare, they often talk about their friends and the garden or outside space.

Your child should be in a place that is

- Bright and cheerful
- Clean
- Friendly for children with some child sized equipment

3. Fun activities planned each day

When children feel safe and happy they are learning all the time.

All children learn at different rates and so activities need to be planned with the needs of each child in mind. Childcare staff should plan the day's activities before the children arrive.

Children enjoy making friends with other children. This is much easier if the children attend the childcare service regularly and know who and what to expect each day.

Make sure the childcare you choose provides plenty encouragement for your child whatever his/her age, gender or abilities. This is because children pick up ideas about stereotyping from a very young age.

Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence is Scotland's curriculum for children and young people aged 3 to 18. It builds on the solid foundations developed in the critical years of 0-3 which are supported by national pre-birth to three guidance.

The Curriculum for Excellence aims to provide a streamlined curriculum for 3-18 year olds and implement new approaches to assessment.

www.dundee.gov.uk/childcare/childcareinfo

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For information on how the Curriculum for Excellence relates to early years education and to access guidance go to

<https://education.gov.scot/scottish-education-system/Early%20learning%20and%20childcare>

4. A big welcome for you and your child

When you visit your childcare service, you and your child should feel welcome. Staff should find time to listen to you when you want to ask questions. They should answer any questions you have about the childcare service or about your child. Think about how your childcare service will

- Include you in planning your child's care
- Help your child's routine - sleep, food, any special needs
- Fit in with your ideas on discipline, sweets, toilet training
- Encourage your child to feel happy and confident whatever his/her ability, race, culture, language or gender

For further guidance on questions to ask see [Fact Sheet 19 - "What to Look for and Questions to ask when Choosing Childcare"](#)

For further information about childcare available in Dundee City please go to www.families.scot or contact DUNDEE CHILDREN & FAMILIES INFORMATION SERVICE HELPLINE on cis@dundeecity.gov.uk or telephone 01382 433900.

Information is available on our Dundee pages of the national website where alongside details about childcare services you can also access our online Directory for further advice, groups and other services available for families locally and nationally

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