

Family Information Service

What is a day nursery?

Day nurseries are registered childcare facilities providing full and part-time childcare for children from ages 0-5 years. They are usually open all year round. Opening times tend to coincide with a standard working day from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday for 50 weeks of the year to accommodate the needs of working parents and you can choose to send your child full or part-time.

There are several different types of nursery:

- Private nurseries, which are run on a commercial basis.
- Workplace nurseries for employees in an organisation.
- Nursery classes attached to a school (these will only be open during term times and will only offer sessional care – mornings or afternoons).

Day nurseries must be registered on the Ofsted Early Years Register and the Compulsory Childcare Register and they have to operate within the standards set for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Copies of their latest Ofsted report can be found on www.ofsted.gov.uk.

Free early education

All children from the funding term following their third birthday, and some two year olds, are entitled to 15 hours of free early education per week for 38 weeks a year. This applies until they reach



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compulsory school age (the term following their fifth birthday). As the sessions at day nurseries are often longer than the funded sessions, and they are open all year round, there may be 'top-up' charges to pay. Please check with the day nursery how much these extra charges will be.

The provider will make the claim for your free early education entitlement on your behalf during each funding period (three times a year), but you will need to complete and sign a parent declaration form for the hours you want to claim during head count week in each of the funding periods. You will be given this form by your provider.

More information is available on: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/earlyyears

If you work and pay for childcare you may be able to get tax credits to help towards the costs. More information is available from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) Tel: 0845 300 3900

Useful contacts:

Ofsted

Tel: 0300 123 1231 - Helpline and Complaints (8.00am to 8.00pm, Monday to Friday)

Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Post: Royal Exchange Buildings, St Ann's Square, Manchester, M2 7LA

Gov.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/free-early-education>

HMRC – for information on tax credits

Tel: 0845 300 3900

Website: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits>