Nannies and other home–based carers care for children in your home, they work hours to suit you and your family and sometimes live in. Some nannies and other home-based carers will also agree to look after the house as well as the children i.e. cooking and cleaning. If you are a family with lots of children, by using a nanny, they can all be together and it can sometimes be cheaper than other childcare.

Nannies and other home-based child carers do not have to be registered by Ofsted but they can now apply to be registered through the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register. To be part of this scheme they need to meet certain criteria, please visit www.ofsted.gov.uk for more information.

Questions to ask a Nanny/Home based-carer.

Do you have any qualifications or training?

Have you been registered through the Voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register?

Can I see your First Aid certificate?

What experience do you have?

Can you provide references?

How will you organise my child’s day?

Where would you take my child out?

Will you keep a record of food eaten and activities that have taken place?

Have you had a Disclosure and Barring Service check (formerly known as CRBs)?

Do you mind starting early / finishing late?

Can you babysit at evenings and weekends?

How would you teach my child potty training / behaviour/ feeding / good eating habits?

If the Nanny/Home based-carer is living in: How will you spend time off?

Be clear on rules e.g. boyfriends staying over / use of telephone / internet / smoking / drinking.

Au pairs

Au pairs are not usually trained to work with children and have come to the UK to learn English. They live in the home and work for up to 5 hours a day. For this they receive 2 days off per week, their own room, meals and a weekly allowance (usually about £50). Au pairs are an option for affordable after school care if you have the space, but are not suitable to care for young babies, as they may not have the experience.

We hope this helps.
Choosing Nanny or Au-pair

For further information and advice, please contact:

Family information Service (FIS)
Tel: 0118 9373777 opt2
Email: fis@reading.gov.uk
www.reading.gov.uk/fis

Information for every member of the family

Ofsted: General Enquiries & Complaints
Tel: 0300 1231231

Questions for parents to ask.