

# What is a Day Nursery?

Day Nurseries provide full day care and education from 8am-6pm for most of the year (excluding Bank Holidays). They cater for children as young as six weeks to 5 year olds.

Day Nurseries offer part-time places as well as full-time, the hours are generally a morning session (8am-1pm) and an afternoon session (1pm-6pm).

If you only wish to access the free 15 hours of childcare with a Day Nursery please check when they offer these sessions. If you access your free 15 hours during a morning or afternoon session there may be additional costs.

All Day Nurseries are registered with Ofsted and are required to meet the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) – this framework consists of standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five. To find out more about EYFS visit [www.Foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.Foundationyears.org.uk)

All day nurseries included on this list are registered with Ofsted. Please view this information and make a shortlist of Nurseries you are interested in visiting and contact them to arrange an appointment.

Please read the attached factsheet “Visiting Childcare Providers” and prepare some questions to ask the Nursery. Below is a list of some questions you may consider asking:

## When you arrive first impressions count:

- Is the setting warm and inviting?
- Is there a lot going on/are the children stimulated and busy?
- Do the children seem happy and contented
- Are there plenty of toys and books on show?
- Do the staff respond to the children?
- Are the children well supervised?

**The following questions will help you to remember some of the key things you should ask when deciding on whether the care they can provide is suitable for your child.**

## Costs and Availability:

- Are there vacancies - is there a waiting list and, if so, how long is this?

Family Information Service,  
01635 503100,  
<http://fis.westberk.gov.uk>



*“Day Nurseries are registered with OFSTED they provide childcare for young children aged between 3 months and 5 years or until they start school”*



- Do you have to pay a deposit? If so, what's it for? Is it returnable?
- How much do they charge per hour/day? Do you have to pay for meals/nappies/other activities?
- How can you access the free 15 hours? And are there additional services, if so what is the charge for these?
- Do they accept childcare vouchers (if this is an option from your employer)?
- Do they offer a settling in period? If so, how long for?

### Staff qualifications:

- What is the ratio of staff to children?
- What qualifications do the staff hold and have they undertaken regular training or professional development
- The leader should hold a minimum of a level 3 or equivalent qualification (some settings have an Early Years Professional or qualified teacher)
- Is there a safe and secure outdoor area?
- Ask to see a copy of their Ofsted registration certificate and a copy of their latest report
- Do you keep a daily record of what the children do?
- Can I see your policies? Can I have hard copies to read at home?
- What is your policy on discipline – how will you work with me to manage challenging behaviour?
- What happens if I'm late to collect my child?

### Useful websites to look at:

[www.pacey.org.uk](http://www.pacey.org.uk)

professional association of childminders and early years

Tel : **0845 880 0044**

[www.daycaretrust.org.uk](http://www.daycaretrust.org.uk)

Daycare Trust. Tel: **0845 872 6260**

[www.ofsted.gov.uk/](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/)

Office for standards in education OFSTED.

Tel: **0300 123 1231**

[www.foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk)

Information on the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage



*“Make a shortlist of nurseries you are interested in, then call and arrange an appointment to visit.”*