



Make The Right Decision For Your Child



A simple guide to selecting the best nursery or childminder for your little one



CHOOSE CAREFULLY

Parents today usually have to make the decision between a nursery or childminder when it comes to childcare. We believe that you should receive the same level of care, interaction and skill development no matter which option you choose. We aim to help you make the right decision to help with your child's progression, after all, these are the most important years of their lives, so choosing the correct placement is extremely important.

RESEARCH VERY CAREFULLY

When choosing a holiday, buying a car or home for that matter you never just pick the first one that comes along; you shop around. It is advised you do the same with your childcare, as what suits a friend's child may not suit yours. Try and visit at least three or four different nurseries or childminders and if possible take your child with you. See how they react to the environment as after all it will be them spending their time there.

“These are the most important years of their lives”

So here's the Checklist:

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

- Do the other children look happy?
- Are the children involved in activities?
- Is there plenty of reading material?

QUESTIONS TO ASK THE NURSERY/CHILDMINDER DIRECTLY:

- What group activities do they offer for the children?
- What resources do they have to promote literacy (books, magnetic letters etc)?
- Do they use any language development techniques (teaching words through play)?
- Do they support nutritious food habits?

DOES THE CARING AREA/CLASSROOM HAVE:

- More than one play area (including areas for quiet time)?
- Space for children to move freely?
- Adequate safety and security provisions?
- Child sized furniture?
- Childs art work or examples of activities on the walls?
- A place for the children's belongings?

IS/ARE THE CARER(S):

- Kind and encouraging the children to explore and work on their own as well as in groups?
- Talking to the children and asking them questions?
- Talking and listening to individual children?
- Playing with the children?
- Keeping control of the children in a positive manner?

“Do the other children look happy?”

So here's the Checklist:

DO THE DAILY ROUTINES INCLUDE:

- Outdoor play, if so: how often?
- Planned mealtime routine?
- Group activities?
- Individual play?
- Equal time for active and quiet activities?
- An organised arrival and departure procedure?
- Quiet time so the children can relax?

IS THERE AN OUTDOOR PLAY AREA AND IF SO IS IT:

- Clean, safe and sheltered in places?
- Large enough for bikes, balls, running etc?
- Fenced?
- Organised so children have a place to sit and relax if needed?
Sufficient so the carer/teacher can see all children at all times?

WHAT TO ASK ABOUT POLICIES AND STAFF:

- Are all members certified?
- What is the drop off and collection policy?
- What is the child to carer ratio?
- How long have the carers been working there or how long has the childminder been registered?
- Are all staff/childminders CRB and background checked?
- Are staff trained in emergency procedures and first aid related to children?
- Are children assisted in solving their own problems?
- What are the child disciplinary procedures?
- What are the policies on informing parents of illness, injury, behaviour, eating etc?

“Do the other children look happy?”



HOPE WE'VE HELPED A LITTLE

Remember our questions are only suggestions but we hope they will assist you in finding the right nursery or childminder.

With every situation you are bound to forget something so when you remember write it down and give them a call. Always trust your own instinct. If you don't feel 100% convinced then leave it alone.

IT DOESN'T END THERE

Once you have made your decision and enrolled your child be sure to keep in touch with the carers regularly to ensure your little one is happy and progressing how envisaged.

"Always trust your own instinct"