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FACTSHEET

A guide to childcare options in Sheffield

There are many different types of childcare, subject to different sets of regulations and registration, and this can be confusing for new parents and carers (or for those new to Sheffield). This factsheet aims to help parents find the childcare that is most suited to their needs and the needs of their children.

What does registration mean?

Under the Childcare Act 2006 most childcare services seeking to care for children under 8 years old, for more than 2 hours a day, away from the child's own home, must be registered. Registration is carried out by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted), who then inspect the provision regularly to ensure that quality standards for childcare are met. Provision not required to register includes some crèches such as shoppers' crèches, certain activity based clubs, and provision operating for 14 days or less in a year.

Carers employed in the child's home as nannies are not required to register unless they work for 3 or more families at one time. However, childcarers and groups who are exempt from registration can now opt to go on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register where they will also be checked and regulated. (Please see our factsheet 'A Guide to Registration and Ofsted'.)

How do I find out about childcare in Sheffield?

Sheffield Information Link (SIL) can provide parents/carers with details of all registered childcare and with factsheets about the different types of provision.

SIL's factsheet, 'A guide to nannies' gives suggestions of ways to employ a nanny and has contact details for local nanny agencies. We also have a jobs vacancy board where parents seeking nannies can place adverts.

How does a parent find out about non-registered children's activities in Sheffield?

SIL keeps details of non-registered children's groups such as toddler groups and a broad range of leisure based activity groups and clubs. We update this information on a regular basis but, because it is not registered, we rely on the providers and users of these services to let us know about new activities or changes to existing ones. We also produce a 'What's On' listing activities for children and young people for every school holiday. Most of this information can also be found on our online directory: www.asksid.net.

Parents and carers need to be aware that we cannot vet non-registered activities or clubs, and inclusion on our lists or website does not amount to a recommendation.

It is also possible to find out about non registered activities and clubs through word of mouth, local parents' newsletters, local newspapers, noticeboards at schools, churches and community centres, and adverts in shop windows.

Do I have to use registered childcare in order to be eligible for help with costs?

Yes. If you are in receipt of Working Tax Credit you may qualify for extra help towards your childcare costs. You will only be eligible for this extra help if you are using registered childcare. This includes providers registered on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register. You may also be eligible to use tax credits if a provision is run directly by a school. Please ask for a copy of our factsheet 'A Guide to Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit'. Using a registered provider will also enable parents to use employer supported childcare vouchers. Under this scheme the cost of childcare vouchers are deducted from your gross pay by your employer, meaning you have less tax and National Insurance to pay. (See our factsheet 'A Guide to Employer Supported Childcare')

Does your child have special needs or a disability?

All registered childcare is required to ensure that it is accessible and inclusive. This means

childcare should not be refused, or a child treated less favourably, because of any disability or learning difficulty. All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the needs of each child are met, and that children with disabilities have access to the premises. A number of specialist services can provide support and advice to parents and childcarers about children's play, learning and

development. These include the Early Years Inclusion Service for 0 – 5 year olds, and the Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service (SNIPS) for children wanting to access mainstream out of school and holiday clubs. See Useful Contacts below and for details of SIGN, our specialist service for families with children who are disabled or have special needs.

Childminders	Day Nurseries	Playgroups/Pre-schools
<p>Self employed carers who look after children in the childcarer's home</p> <p>Registered with Ofsted if they look after children under 8, for reward, for more than 2 hours a day. May also register on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register for children over 8</p> <p>Care for children of any age</p> <p>Many childminders are trained and experienced in caring for children with disabilities or special needs</p> <p>Cost on average £3.20 per hour per child. May offer discounts for more than one child from the same family</p> <p>Care for children in a home environment</p> <p>May be able to offer flexible hours to cover weekends, shift work etc</p> <p>May be able to pick up from, or take children to school, nursery or playgroup</p> <p>May be able to offer free early learning sessions for 3 and 4 year olds</p>	<p>Day nurseries may be private nurseries run on a commercial basis; workplace or college nurseries for employees or students; or non-profit making nurseries usually serving a local community</p> <p>Registered with Ofsted</p> <p>Care for children of varying ages - usually 3 or 6 months - 5 years, or from 2 - 5 years</p> <p>All nurseries should be able to offer the support needed to include children with special needs and disabilities. Parents can contact the Early Years Inclusion Service to access additional support</p> <p>Average costs are £3.70 per hour. May have set fees for morning or afternoon sessions and full days and many will charge more for younger age groups</p> <p>Some nurseries also provide breakfast clubs, after school clubs and/or holiday playcare</p> <p>Most offer free early learning sessions for 3 and 4 year olds</p>	<p>Group care for children with sessions lasting for 2 - 3 hours and taking place between 1 - 5 times a week during term time</p> <p>Registered with Ofsted if the session runs for 2 hours or more and for more than 14 days in any year, with the parents not present</p> <p>Care for children aged 2 or 2½ - school age</p> <p>Playgroups and pre-schools should be able to offer the support needed to include children with special needs and disabilities. Parents can contact the Early Years Inclusion Service to access additional support</p> <p>Most will charge per session with the average cost at £2.50 per hour</p> <p>Short sessions mean playgroups are not suitable as childcare for working parents, but may be combined with other provision, e.g. childminders, to provide daycare</p> <p>May be able to offer free early learning sessions for 3 and 4 year olds</p>



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Holiday Playcare	Out of School Clubs	Crèches
<p>Group care and play for children during the school holidays</p> <p>Registered with Ofsted if they care for children under 8 for 2 or more hours a day. Clubs for over 8s may register on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register</p> <p>Usually care for children aged 4 -11 years but if based at a nursery they may take younger children. Some schemes will take children up to 15 years</p> <p>The Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service (SNIPS) can provide support to enable children with disabilities to access mainstream holiday playschemes</p> <p>On average £20 per day. Some schemes offer subsidised places according to income and family circumstances</p> <p>These playschemes differ from recreational or community schemes because they are not open access - a 'contract of care' exists between parents and staff, and children are not free to come and go as they please</p>	<p>Also known as: After School Clubs Kids Clubs Breakfast Clubs</p> <p>Group care and play for children before and/or after school during term time</p> <p>Registered with Ofsted if they look after children under 8 for 2 or more hours a day. Clubs for over 8s may register on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register</p> <p>Care for children aged 4 - 11 years.</p> <p>The Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service (SNIPS) can provide support to enable children with disabilities to access mainstream out of school clubs</p> <p>Costs vary depending on funding. Most clubs charge per session. The average cost is £2.90 per hour</p> <p>May pick up from or take children to school</p> <p>Some clubs take children from more than one school</p> <p>Some clubs also run holiday playcare schemes</p>	<p>Group care for children for occasional or limited amounts of time</p> <p>May be registered with Ofsted if they look after children under 8 for 2 or more hours a day on more than 14 days a year. Crèches where the parents are in the immediate vicinity, such as shoppers' crèches, may not be required to register.</p> <p>Usually care for children from 6 months upwards</p> <p>Should be able to care for children with special needs or disabilities</p> <p>Cost varies depending on the provider</p> <p>Often in permanent premises attached to sports centres, shopping centres or colleges</p> <p>Others are set up on a temporary basis to care for children whilst their parent/carer is involved in time-limited activities e.g. a conference or exhibition</p> <p>Can be used in conjunction with other provision, e.g. childminders to provide daycare for working parents</p>

Children's Centres

Children's Centres support families with children under 5. They are designed to offer a range of services such as childcare, family support, health services, help with finding jobs and training, and drop in sessions and activities for parents and children

Children's Centres are being set up on a rolling programme which will eventually lead to a centre for every community. Some will provide Ofsted registered childcare directly through their own nursery, while others will have contracts with neighbouring providers for childcare

Care for children from birth - 5 years

Children's Centres are designed to be inclusive of all children and families. Children with special needs or disabilities should be able to access support where needed

Standard local authority rates generally apply for childcare. Usually £3.00 per hour but these can vary according to family income. Many additional services are free of charge

Some centres also provide before/after school care and holiday playschemes

Offers free early learning sessions for three and four year olds

Nursery Schools and Classes

Local Education Authority provision. Nursery classes are part of primary schools. Nursery Schools are stand-alone units run by the Early Years Education and Childcare Service

They are inspected by Ofsted

Offer free early learning sessions for children aged 3 - school age, usually 15 hours per week but full time places may be offered to 4 year olds in some settings

Nursery classes and schools should be inclusive and able to offer support to children with special needs or disabilities where needed

May provide a range of other services such as extended or wrap-around care (additional childcare outside of the free early learning sessions) and sometimes cater for children under 3

May charge for additional services. Charges will vary from school to school

Can be used in conjunction with other provision, e.g. childminders to provide daycare for working parents

Nannies (Home Childcarers)

Carers who work in the child's home and are employed by the child's parent/carer

Parents from 2 or more families may choose to share a nanny

Not required to be registered with Ofsted unless they look after children from 3 or more families. Nannies can choose to register as home childcarers with the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register

Can care for children of any age

May be able to care for children with special needs

In Sheffield costs vary between £6.00 - £9.00 (net) per hour per family. Nannies charge one rate per family so can be expensive for families with one child but cheaper for those with more than one child

Parents/carers are the nanny's employer and so are responsible for tax and NI. Please note this will involve additional costs for parents/carers above the net rate

As there is no compulsory registration or inspection process for nannies there is no overall standard. Parents must check for qualifications and experience and Criminal Records Bureau checks

Parents/carers will not be able to apply for help with childcare costs if in receipt of working tax credit unless a nanny is registered on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register



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Breakdown of childcare provision in Sheffield

This is intended as a guide only. The figures are as accurate as possible (February 2009) but can change frequently, particularly in the case of childminders.

Area of Sheffield	Home based childcarer (Childminder)	Home Childcarer (Registered Nanny)	Day Nursery	Crèche	Pre School Playgroup	Out of School Club	Holiday Playcare	Nursery Class/ Nursery School	Children's Centre (Where childcare is provided this is listed in the relevant category)
S1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
S2	10	1	7	3	0	4	3	7	3
S3	4	0	4	0	0	1	2	3	1
S4	5	0	4	1	0	0	1	3	1
S5	36	0	8	2	1	4	2	12	5
S6	73	0	13	1	7	9	7	6	4
S7	9	0	5	0	1	6	4	2	2
S8	58	0	8	0	6	8	3	5	2
S9	19	1	4	2	0	0	3	5	3
S10	31	0	14	0	7	13	6	3	1
S11	39	0	7	1	5	8	6	0	0
S12	37	0	3	0	2	6	2	5	2
S13	26	0	6	1	2	7	4	6	3
S14	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	2
S17	15	0	4	0	3	3	1	0	0
S20	34	0	4	0	0	6	3	5	1
S35	40	1	9	0	2	7	3	3	1
S36	23	1	1	0	3	2	1	2	1
TOTAL	462	4	104	12	39	85	52	68	32

The Childcare Act requires local authorities to assess the local childcare market and to secure sufficient childcare for working parents. Childcare will only be deemed sufficient if it meets the needs of the community in general and in particular those families on lower incomes and those with disabled children. Local authorities take the lead in planning, supporting and commissioning childcare. Local authorities are not required to provide childcare direct but to work with local private, voluntary and independent sector providers to meet local need. Local authorities have a duty to secure a free minimum amount of early learning and care for all 3 and 4 year olds whose parents want it.

Useful contacts and information

Sheffield Information Link (SIL)

Tel (0114) 275 6699 (out of hours answerphone) • Textphone (0114) 249 4939

11 Leopold Street, Sheffield S1 2GY

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9.30am - 5.30pm, Wednesday 9.30am - 6.00pm, Friday 9.30am - 4.00pm

Email: info@sheffinfoolink.org.uk • Website: www.sheffinfoolink.org.uk

For information and guidance on services for children, young people and families.

Sign Information Service

Tel (0114) 266 9476 (out of hours answerphone)

Ryegate Children's Centre, Tapton Crescent Road, Sheffield S10 5DD

Drop in service and phone Monday - Friday 10.00am - 1.00pm

Email: sign@sheffinfoolink.org.uk

Free information on significant health needs, disabilities and special educational needs for children, young people and their families.

Special Needs Inclusion Playcare service (SNIPS)

Tel (0114) 273 4017

For information and support for children with disabilities or special needs to access playschemes.

Families may self-refer

Early Years Inclusion Team

Tel (0114) 239 8336

Work with young children with special educational needs at home and support nurseries, playgroups and primary school reception classes to include children with SEN and disabilities.

Parents can refer direct or can ask a professional to refer on their behalf.

OFSTED

Tel: 0845 640 4040 - Helpline and Complaints

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Early Years Education and Childcare Service (EYECS)

Tel: (0114) 281 1881

Website: www.sheffield.gov.uk/eyecs

Email: eyecs@sheffield.gov.uk

Floor 5, Cathedral Court, 1 Vicar Lane, Sheffield, S1 1HD

Monday - Thursday 8.45am - 5.15pm, Friday 8.45am - 4.45pm

Part of Sheffield City Council's Children and Young People's Directorate. EYECS is the service responsible for helping to deliver the government's childcare strategy throughout Sheffield. Their responsibilities fall under four main areas - to maintain the city's childcare places, to fund and ensure there's enough nursery places for eligible three and four year-olds, to help develop the childcare workforce, and to deliver the city's Children's Centres.



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