

HOW CAN I FIND CHILDCARE PROVISION?

We are able to supply you with a list of registered providers in Bristol. For other areas you can access information on the national website:

<http://childcarefinder.direct.gov.uk/childcarefinder/> or
<http://www.1bigdatabase.org.uk/childcare/new>

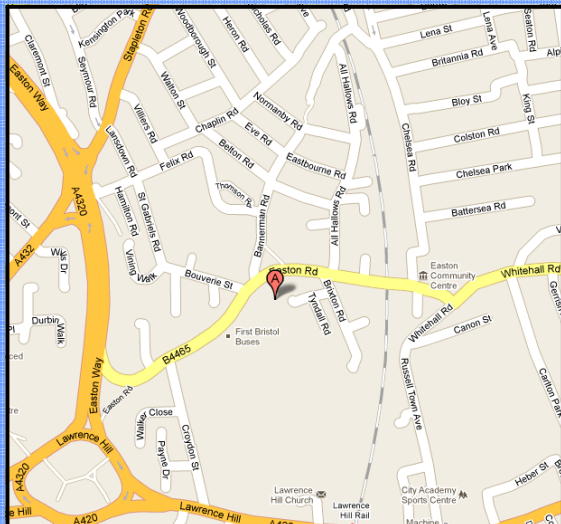
In addition we are able to supply you with information regarding leisure, youth services, support groups, tax credits, local events, parenting courses and the free early education entitlement grant.

Family Information Service For Bristol

Tel: 0845 129 7217

Email: askcyps@bristol.gov.uk

178 Easton Rd, Easton, Bristol BS5 0ES



Family Information Service For Bristol

[Choosing
Childcare](#)



WHAT IS REGISTERED CHILDCARE?

Registered childcare is care that is inspected regularly by OFSTED (The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) against the Early Years Foundation Stage. Care that operates for 2 hours or more a day and/or for 5 days a year or more is required to be registered. CRB checks have been carried out on childcare providers to make sure they are suitable to be around children. Premises are also inspected by OFSTED to meet the required standards. The setting's OFSTED report is a public document and providers should be able to show you their current report on request. Parents can also view OFSTED inspection reports on their website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

WHAT IS A REGISTERED CHILDMINDER?

Childminders work in their own homes caring for other people's children. They are self employed and can care for up to six children under the age of eight.

All Bristol childminders are registered by Ofsted. They are police and health-checked, and regularly inspected to ensure that a safe, secure and stimulating environment is provided.

Childminders will offer different skills, but all Bristol childminders will hold a relevant childminding qualification and a Paediatric First Aid certificate.



USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Ofsted—regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. Website allows parents/carers to review inspection reports for childcare providers.

Tel: 0300 123 1231

www.ofsted.gov.uk

Parentline Plus—is a national charity providing help and support in all aspects of family life. We're here for you 24 hours a day, seven days a week through our free Parentline. Whatever your family role or situation, we can help.

Tel: 0808 800 2222

<http://familylives.org.uk>

Education Otherwise—is a membership based organisation that provides support and information for families whose children are being educated outside school, and for those who wish to uphold the freedom of families to take proper responsibility for the education of their children.

Tel: 0845 478 6345

www.education-otherwise.org

SPAN—The Single Parent Action Network provides a newsletter full of news and information on groups, training, publications, funding and holidays. SPAN supports self help groups through grants, training, guidance and cultural diversity. Their Study Centre provides training and courses, a young mums group, free crèche and a drop-in service.

Tel: 0117 952 2712

www.spanuk.org.uk

WECIL—The West of England Centre for Inclusive Living is an organisation run and controlled by Disabled people. It works with people to provide and develop the services they want in order for them to be able to take a full and active part in the community with control over their lives.

Tel: 0117 903 9800

www.wecil.co.uk

School Admissions—Bristol City Council service for information regarding applications to primary and secondary schools, appeals and transfers.

Tel: 0117 903 7694

www.bristol-cyps.org.uk/schools/admissions

ACE—The Advisory Centre for Education provides free independent advice and information for parents and carers in England and Wales on a range of state education and schooling issues.

Tel: 0808 800 5793

www.ace-ed.org.uk

INCLUSIVE CHILDCARE - EARLY YEARS EDUCATION IS MOVING FORWARDS

All children should be given the opportunity to learn and play together. They have a right to early years education and childcare in their locality.

HOW IS THE PROCESS OF INCLUSION SUPPORTED?

Enhanced Provision can place children with registered childminders who have experience and receive training to care for disabled children. Placements can be made for two year old children in local education authority day nurseries or registered day care settings.

A Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) is available in all registered early years settings. Their role is to support inclusion by engaging with parents, staff and other support services involved with individual children. They are responsible for planning for individual children.

Training in equality and disability awareness is available for all childminders, early years workers, and play workers.

Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (SENCOP) informs all registered early years settings on their statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for children's special educational needs. The Equality Act 2010 applies to all providers of early years services.

Portage is a home visiting educational service for pre-school children who have special needs.

The Local Education Authority has a range of services available to support inclusion in mainstream settings.

Out of School Services are offered training courses in 'inclusive play'. Funding is available to provide additional staffing resources and placements.

FREE PART-TIME EDUCATION

The Government is providing funding for all 3 and 4 year olds to attend a registered early years setting for a maximum of 15 hours a week during the school terms or a minimum of 12 hours all year round. Individual settings will be able to offer you different choices.

Registered settings and providers include pre-school playgroups, private day nurseries, childminders who are part of an accredited network (e.g. Bristol Childminding Network), maintained nursery schools, nursery classes in a primary or independent school, Children's Centres.

The Free Early Years Entitlement will be offered up to a maximum of 15 hours a week spread over at least 3 days and a maximum of 6 hours per day, for at least 38 weeks a year. For more information or a list of childcare providers who offer this provision please contact the Family Information Service.

WHAT IS A PRE SCHOOL/PLAYGROUP?



Preschool/playgroups provide an opportunity for young children to learn through play in a group setting on a sessional basis, usually for two to three hours in the morning or afternoon during term time. They are often run by Parent Committees as non-profit making groups. Parents/carers do not

have to stay with their children, once settled however, some parents do stay to help out at the sessions.

WHAT IS A DAY NURSERY?

These are Private Nurseries or Community Nurseries; varying in size from small individual privately owned nurseries to nurseries run by large national companies. Nurseries will have a team of staff who plan activities to provide exciting learning opportunities for babies and



children. They usually open at about 8.00am, sometimes earlier, and close at around 6pm and usually open most weeks of the year. Part-time places are often available. Community Nurseries are non-profit nurseries and usually have a sliding scale of fees determined on a family's income. There are also Workplace Nurseries where some employers run childcare schemes for children of their employees. Nurseries usually cater for children 0-5 years old.

WHAT IS A CHILDREN'S CENTRE?

A Children's Centre provides a range of high quality integrated early years and childcare service to local families. The services provided are available all year round for a minimum of 48 weeks a year. Children's Centres will ideally be sited on or close to a primary school within "pram pushing" distance for families.



The services will include:-

- Day Care and Early Education
- Family Health, Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Care/Classes etc
- A range of Parenting and Family Support Services
- Childminder Drop-ins and Training Support
- Outreach Services
- "Surgeries" - Jobcentre Plus, Training Providers, Benefits Advice
- Local Advice and Information Services
- Support for Children with additional needs.

USEFUL WEBSITES



*family
Information
at your fingertips*

www.1bigdatabase.org.uk

1 Big Database (1BigD) is a comprehensive directory of services, events, community and voluntary organisations, clubs and groups in Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

www.bristol-cyps.org.uk/early/early.html

This site holds information about Early Years childcare provision in Bristol. Details of admission to schools, additional requirement services and funding can also be found here.



www.bristolparentinghub.co.uk



Bristol Parenting Hub has been developed by Bristol City Council as a signposting website for parents and carers of children of all ages. The internet holds a wealth of information, which can be quite overwhelming at times. The purpose of this site is to signpost you to up to date relevant information about your child's upbringing and make it as easy to find as possible.

www.goplacestoplay.org.uk

Bristol play service delivers quality play opportunities for children aged 5-12 and promotes inspiring play environments across the city. They provide a wide range of services for the community, including Adventure Playgrounds, after school clubs and holiday play schemes, and play rangers in parks.



WHAT IS AN OUT OF SCHOOL SERVICE?

Out of school services are for school age children to play, learn and have fun in groups. They are usually based in or near schools. Most groups are managed by volunteer Management committee's with parents playing an active part in the management of the Club.

There are three main types of Services:



BEFORE SCHOOL CLUB (sometimes referred to as **BREAKFAST CLUBS**) – open in the morning before school starts, usually from around 8.00 am. Most offer children the opportunity to enjoy breakfast with friends and some offer other activities.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB – usually from the time school ends to about 6.00pm. Some are based in schools others in the community and children are collected either by bus or occasionally 'walkers' who collect the children and deliver them safely to the club.



HOLIDAY PLAY SCHEME – run in the school holidays and sometimes on 'in-service' days, usually between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm. Often part time sessions are available.



WHAT ARE NURSERY CLASSES AND NURSERY SCHOOLS?

Most Nursery Classes and Nursery Schools are part of the state education system (maintained sector) and are mostly free. These are also known as MNSCs. Some are run by private schools and they charge fees. The Free Early Years Entitlement may be available to support payment of fees.



Nursery Classes are part of maintained primary schools or independent schools. They are usually for three and four year olds.

Nursery Schools are separate services that cater for children aged three to five. They can be private or provided by the local authority (maintained).

Nursery Classes and Nursery Schools provide early education and some provide childcare as well in the form of Before School, After School or Holiday Schemes. Local Authority Nurseries usually offer half days. Nursery Classes in independent schools usually offer full days. They are staffed by Teachers and assistants. Nursery Schools and Classes are likely to close for school holidays of at least 13 weeks in the year. Some Private Nursery Schools stay open during school holidays.



When choosing early years education or childcare for your child consider: ↓

- Visit the setting; is it welcoming, clean, bright and cheerful?
- Does the building have necessary stair gates, fire guards, smoke alarms etc?
- Do the children appear to be happy and calm and play well together?
- What experience do the staff or childminder have and what extra training has/or is taking place?
- Do staff/childminder listen to the children and join in with their activities where appropriate?
- Is there a variety of clean toys and equipment for the babies and children to use?
- If you have chosen a childminder, are they a member of a Toy Library?
- Can the children choose toys and equipment for themselves?
- Are there a lot of fun activities planned for the babies and children?
- Do the children go on regular outings and visits or attend any groups?
- What sort of restraints will be used, if the children are taken out in a vehicle? Does the setting have appropriate insurance/risk assessments for this?
- Is there an outside play area? - Have a look.
- Will the children spend time in both large and small groups?
- If there are pets, do the children have access to them?
- How does the childcare provider consult with parents? Can parents visit during a session? Is a 'Daily Diary'?
- If applicable; will your child have a named 'Key Worker' who will liaise with you on issues concerning your baby/ child?
- If applicable: will your baby/child be with the same adult each session?
- Ask to see the childcare provider's
 - ◆ Ofsted Inspection
 - ◆ Public Liability Insurance
 - ◆ Registration Certificate
- Who else will the children be in contact with? ie. Childminder's own family, contractors etc.
- Ask what types of food and snacks the babies/children will be given.
- How does the childcare provider demonstrate their respect for different cultures, religions, language, gender and abilities?
- How does the childcare provider manage toilet training?
- What is the childcare provider's policy on managing children's behaviour?
- Is the childcare provider working to the Bristol Standard or any other Quality Standard (The Bristol Standard or Childminding Network)? How does the childcare provider keep up-to-date with current issues?
- Check the opening hours, costs and vacancies
- Ask if they have a prospectus for parents, if so, does it include information on:
 - ◆ Child Protection
 - ◆ Equal Opportunities
 - ◆ Complaints Procedure
 - ◆ Emergency Plan

Complete a written contract. Remember with any changes to make sure a new contract has been completed.

Checks are carried out to make sure that staff, childminders and childminder's family who are over the age of 16 yrs are a suitable person to be around children. Ofsted also carry out a Health and Safety inspection of the premises to ensure that the premises and the environment are suitable for the care of children. Ofsted also do regular inspections.

Most importantly, how do the staff relate to your baby/child?

Do you feel comfortable in the setting and with the staff/childminder?

Remember, you know your child best - find a childcare provider where you know you and your child will feel comfortable and secure.