

## Sourcing & Choosing Childcare

<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>Operated by</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Legal Requirements</u>	<u>Expectations</u>
<p><b><u>Centre Based &amp; Long Day Care</u></b></p> <p>A service, which generally speaking provides care for children from 0 to 5 years</p>	Local Government councils, church groups and private businesses	Between 8-12 hours per day. Approximately 7am and 6pm	48-50 weeks per year. Most centres are closed over Xmas/ New Year	Vary depending on the service and age of child attending	Some staff will be trained in early childhood education and some will be untrained assistants. First aid certificates are usually required	For fee assistance, long day care centres are required to be registered with the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services and be licensed through a relevant state department	Service should have information on their philosophy, policies and procedures, developmental programmes and how the service operates
<p><b><u>Family Day Care</u></b></p> <p>A service, which generally speaking provides care for children from 0 to 12 years (may include before and after school care and vacation care)</p>	Individuals who provide care for children from their own private home	Depending on the family day carer and the needs of the family requiring the care	Depending upon the requirements of the overseeing body and family day carer	Fees are based on an hourly rate and will vary depending on the service, age of children, level of training and qualifications of the carer	First Aid certificate, undergone a “working with children” check and a safety check for the home	Must be registered with the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services and is required to be licensed through the relevant state department. Child Development Officers are required to visit the home on a regular basis to provide support and advice	Service should have information on how they operate. You provide everything such as food, bottles, nappies, linen and spare clothes

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<p><b><u>Home Based Care</u></b> A service, which generally speaking provides care for children from 0 to 12 years and has the following characteristics</p>	Operated in a home environment by an individual	Depending on the family day carer and the needs of the family requiring the care	Depending upon the requirements of the overseeing body and family day carer	Fees are based on an hourly rate and will vary depending on the service, age of children, level of training and qualifications of the carer	Home based carers are not required to have any formal qualifications	Required to be licensed through a relevant state body and must maintain certain standard in order to maintain their licence	Service should have information on how they operate. You provide everything such as food, bottles, nappies, linen and spare clothes
<p><b><u>Occasional Care</u></b> A service, which generally speaking provides care for children from 0 to 5 years</p>	Provides short periods of childcare. Overseen by local government councils and community organisations	Most operate between 8 hours per day. Average hours of 8.30am and 4.00pm	Mon-Fri between 48 and 50 weeks per year. Most centres close between Xmas/ New Year period	Fees are based on an hourly rate and will vary depending on the service and age of the child attending. Families may also be required to pay an annual registration fee	The level of training varies on the size of the service, some staff will be trained in early childhood education and some will be untrained assistants	Required to be licensed through the relevant state body. At this point in time the Occasional care scheme is moving towards accreditation	This service will have policies and procedures available to you. You will be required to pre-book your child into care
<p><b><u>Nannies</u></b> A Nanny service provides care for your child or children in your home. Nanny services are different to other types of care.</p>	Nannies are private carers who may be employed by you to provide care in your home	Hours will depend upon your agreement with the nanny	This will depend upon your agreement with the nanny. Your nanny is entitled to annual and sick leave	Fees will vary depending on the type of service, the level of training and qualifications of the carer as well as the age of the child. This is usually the most expensive form of care	The qualifications of the nanny will depend on their level of training, it is suggest to employ a nanny with a first aid certificate	Nannies are not required to be licensed or registered through any state or commonwealth bodies but agencies can check this for you	Agencies may be able to assist you with the selection of a nanny but the final decision is up to you. Develop a job description which outlines your expectations and responsibilities of your nanny

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<p><b><u>Pre-School</u></b> A service, which generally speaking provides care for children from 3 to 5 years (some accept 2 year olds)</p>	Various organisations such as local government councils, church groups, private businesses and some schools	Most operate up to 6 hours per day. Average hours of 9am and 3pm	On average between Mon-Friday. Some pre-schools only operate during school terms and close during the appropriate breaks	Fees will vary depending on the service and age of the child attending	Staff qualifications will vary on the size of the service, staff are required to have a first aid certificate and have undergone a “working with children” check	Required to be licensed through the relevant state body	This service will have information on policies and procedures available to you
<p><b><u>Out of School Care</u></b> Sometimes known as OOSH or OSHC, is a service that provides supervised care and recreation to school aged children</p>	Various organisations such as local government councils, church groups, private businesses and some schools	Before school hours care may operate between 7am and 9am. After school care may operate from 3pm to 6pm	On average Mon-Fri, some services only operate during school terms and close during appropriate breaks	Fees vary depending on the service, on average before and after school care fees are charged per afternoon or morning session	The level of training varies on the size of the service, some staff will be trained in early childhood education and some will be untrained assistants	This will depend on the service, since 1 January 2001, out of school care operators have been able to apply to the Commonwealth government to provide fee assistance to parents	Activities provided will depend on the type of service, some services offer age appropriate activities, sport, cooking and excursions

**Mobile Services:**

Generally operated in rural or country areas. Mobile services can be provided by various organisations such as Commonwealth government, local government councils, non-profit community groups and church groups. For further information on the services available in your area, contact the Child Care Access Hotline on 1800 670 305.

**Family & Friends:**

Family and grandparents can provide you with an informal and flexible form of childcare. When choosing this form of childcare it is important that you clearly communicate your needs and expectations and to maintain positive and open communication channels. When deciding on who should care for your child, be aware of their energy levels and health as active children can be tiring and may pass on illnesses to other family members.