

Registered Childcare

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Type of Provision	Registered Age Range	Description	Exceptions
Childminder	0 to 8 years	A Childminder provides childcare in their own home, looking after small groups of children (up to 6 at a time) or one to one care for those with additional needs. Often used for their flexibility due to being self employed.	Childminders are registered for children up to 8 years but often take older children for After School care.
Nursery (Full Daycare)	0-5 years full time	Nursery settings are run by private businesses or voluntary organisations. They can accommodate large groups of children; the amount will depend upon the individual setting. They will provide food and snacks for your child (dependant on the length of there day). Staff are required to have Food & Hygiene certificates as well as working towards Healthy Eating Awards.	Some provide wrap around care to link with state nursery as well as holiday clubs. Opening times vary from setting to setting, i.e. some are only open term-time and others all year.
Playgroup (Sessional Daycare)	2-5 years. Half day sessions	Playgroups provide short sessional childcare, usually 2 - 3 hours, during mornings or afternoons. Often community led and require parental involvement.	Some Playgroups will take children at 2, phone to check this with individual provider.
Cylch Meithrin (Welsh Playgroups, Sessional)	2-5 years. Half day sessions	Cylchoedd Meithrin are Welsh language playgroups which give children an opportunity to become bilingual (in English and Welsh).	Parents DO NOT have to speak Welsh for their children to attend.
Part-time Free Educational Nursery Place	Term after child's 3 rd birthday	A free part time place is offered by the Local Authority in a local community nursery school or nursery class within a	If there is no availability within a community nursery setting, Parents may apply to use alternative approved provision.

		2 mile radius from the child's home.	
Breakfast Clubs & After School Clubs	5 - 11 years	Clubs may be Private businesses or run by the School themselves in either the morning, the afternoon, or both. Where a club runs for under 2 and a half hours they are not required to be registered with the CSSIW. Most clubs focus on play but offer quiet areas for study/reading. Some offer a collection service from School.	Some Schools have this service for secondary Schools.
Holiday Play schemes	4 - 11 / 11+	Play schemes run in school holidays with varying hours and opening times. They usually provide activity based, age appropriate care i.e. football, arts & crafts.	Some nurseries also provide holiday care for younger children. There are normally separate provisions for older children.
Open Access Play	Usually 5 - 14 years Children are free to come and go	Cardiff Play Services offer play opportunities in centres across the City and are organised in such a way that children will only be supervised whilst present and taking part in the scheme. Children are able to come and go from the facility as they please. They also offer play schemes that run for short periods of time - school holidays either morning and/or afternoon. The ratio of staff to children is 1:13.	Play Services have trained members of staff to deliver Inclusive play support. This enables children and young people with extra support needs to access play opportunities.
Crèche	0 - 8 Years	Usually provided as an additional facility by a company, organisation or event as occasional childcare. Parents/carers must remain within close proximity to the provision e.g. shopping centre or leisure centre.	Some crèches may not be registered.

[Childcare at Home: Voluntary Approval Scheme](#)

The Childcare at Home: Voluntary Approval Scheme provides an extra level of reassurance for parents looking to have their

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children looked after in their own home.

A setting must be registered when looking after children under 8 years and over 2 hours per day. To claim Tax Credits you must use a registered Childcare provider.

Unregistered Childcare

The following childcare choices do not have to be registered with the CSSIW, therefore it's imperative that you carry out your own references and checks.

Tax credits may not be claimed.

Type of Provision	Registered Age Range	Description	Exceptions
Parent and Toddler Groups	0 - 4 Years	Provides play opportunities for the child and social opportunities for Parents/carers, however the Parent/Carer must stay with the child for the duration of the session.	Groups are often age appropriate especially when activity based, always check with the group leader before attending.
Cylch Ti a Fi's (Bilingual Parent and Toddler Groups)	0 - 4 Years	Provides play opportunities for the child and social opportunities for Parents/carers, wanting to develop Welsh language skills. The Parent/Carer must stay with the child for the duration of the session.	You do NOT HAVE to be a Welsh Speaker to join.
Nannies	Any age (Home Based)	May be trained and hold a formal qualification. They look after your child in your own home. They may live in or out. Parents are responsible for interviewing and checking references.	
Au Pairs	Any Age (Home Based)	Au Pairs are young people aged 17 - 27. They do not generally have childcare qualifications; they usually come from abroad and live as a member of the family to learn English. The home office suggests Au Pairs work in a family home for up to 5hrs per day in return for an allowance of about £50 - £60 per week, a room and two full days off per week. They should be allowed to attend language classes and religious services if they wish.	
Babysitters	Any Age (Home Based)	Babysitting is the practice of temporarily caring for a child on behalf of the child's parents. Babysitting is commonly performed as an odd job by teenagers. A babysitter is distinguished from a nanny by the term of employment; while some	

parents may have a regular babysitter they can call on at need, the sitter is normally contracted one night at a time, while a nanny is employed over an extended period of time.