

Questions to ask and things to observe

Plan your visits. Try to see at least 2 or 3 of your top choices of childcare providers. On your visit, use the check list below to take note of your findings

Questions / Observations	Provider 1	Provider 2	Provider 3
The Setting / Premises:			
Are the premises bright and clean?			
Are there a variety of suitable toys for the children to play with / activities on offer?			
Can you see a copy of the registration, insurance and Ofsted documents?			
Are the premises secure and is the equipment safe?			
Do the children have the opportunity for outside play?			
Does the setting have a web cam observation facility?			
The Childcare Workers and Children:	Provider 1	Provider 2	Provider 3
Have First Aid and Food Hygiene training been undertaken recently?			
What other training and experience do the childcare workers have?			
Does the setting have a low ratio of turnover in Childcare Workers?			
Does each child have a worker who engages with them more closely?			
Are the children playing together, sharing and showing consideration for others?			
The Care:	Provider 1	Provider 2	Provider 3
Is there a policy in place for managing behaviour and do you agree with it?			
Are the children provided with healthy meals and snacks?			
Are there any additional charges for snacks, school pick-ups etc?			
Does the setting have a flexible settling in period for the child?			
Can you speak to other parents about the care on offer?			
Has the setting undertaken a Quality Assurance accreditation?			
Does the setting provide free early learning and care places for 3 & 4 year olds?			

Now review your visits and make the choice that is best for you and your child.

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