



## OFSTED Registers

The Children Act 2006 defines childcare as any form of care for a child including education or any other supervised activity.

OFSTED register care provided for children on two registers: the Early Years Register and the Childcare Register. Settings can apply to join one register or both registers at the same time.

Most childcare providers caring for children aged under eight **must** register with OFSTED unless the law says they are not required to do so. OFSTED have a fact sheet that tells you about the types of care that are not required to register. If a childcare provider is not required to register with OFSTED then in some circumstances they may choose to do so by joining the voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

If you are not sure whether you need to register, you can ring the OFSTED helpline on 08456 404040

### **The Early Years Register -**

All childcarers – such as childminders, day nurseries, pre-schools and private nursery schools – providing for children from birth to the 31 August following their fifth birthday (known as the early years age group) must register with OFSTED on the **Early Years Register** and deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. Maintained and independent schools that are directly responsible for provision for children aged from birth to the age of three, where at least one child is a pupil of a school; or who provide childcare for children in the early years age group, where no child is a pupil of the school, must also register with Ofsted.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

The Early Years Foundation Stage is the statutory framework for the early education and care of children in the early years age group. The EYFS includes requirements for the provision of young children's welfare, learning and development that all providers must meet, as well as good practice guidance. From September 2008 the EYFS must be delivered by all registered early years settings and all schools with children in the early years age group, whether or not they are registered on the Early Years Register. For this publication tel: 0845 60 222 60 quote reference 00261-2008PCK-EN. Further information is available at [www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/eyfs](http://www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/eyfs).

### **The Childcare Register**

The Childcare Register has two parts: a compulsory part and a voluntary part

#### ***Compulsory part***

Settings must register on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register if they care for children aged from 1 September following their fifth birthday up to the age of eight, unless they are not required to register.

***Voluntary part***

Some childcare providers can choose to register with us if they want to provide care that does not need to register with us. This includes:

- home-based care in the home of the child (nannies)
- activity-based settings such as sports coaching or tuition
- short-term care such as crèches
- care that is only for children aged 8 to their 18th birthday.