

Types of childcare definitions - Appendix E

Definitions according to Sure Start's national standards for under 8s day care and childminding

Childminders

A childminder is registered to look after one or more children under the age of 8 to whom they are not related on domestic premises for reward and for a total of more than two hours in any day.

Full daycare

Facilities that provide daycare for children under 8 for a continuous period of four hours or more in any day in premises which are not domestic premises. Examples include day nurseries, children's centres, and some family centres.

Sessional care

Facilities where children under 8 attend daycare for no more than five sessions a week, each session being less than a continuous period of four hours in any day. Where two sessions are offered in any one day, there is a break between sessions with no children in the care of the provider. This is intended to cover provision, which offers children part-time care and the opportunity to engage in activities with their peer group. An example includes playgroups.

Out-of-school care

Facilities that provide day care for children under 8 that operate during one or more of the following periods:

- Before school – provide care before the school day begins;
- After school – provide care after the school day ends; and
- During the school holidays – provides care during the weeks or months schools are closed.

The total care provided is for more than two hours in any day and for more than five days in a year. A main purpose of the provision is to look after children in the absence of their parents. This form of care can include children from 3 years old; children over 8 may use it. Examples include summer camps, holiday play schemes, breakfast clubs, after school clubs.

Crèches

Facilities that provide occasional care for children under 8 that are provided on particular premises on more than five days a year. They need to be registered when they run for more than two hours a day, even where individual children attend for shorter periods. Some are in permanent premises and care for children while parents are engaged in particular activities, for example shopping or sport. Others are established on a temporary basis to care for children while their parents are involved in time-limited activities, for example a conference or exhibition.