

Questions parents could ask about childcare for young children with special educational needs and disabilities

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Listed below are some examples of questions you might want to ask when visiting childcare providers (settings) to ensure you make the best choice for your child. It is advisable to begin the selection process early as providers operate a waiting list.

Some of these questions can be answered by looking carefully through the written information you have about the Early Years provision from the setting's prospectus and website, including their policies on: special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities, their positive behaviour policy, and policies on equal opportunities and inclusion. You should also read the setting's most recent OFSTED report, which may highlight the quality of their SEN provision on offer.

Other questions might be answered by asking parents of children already attending the setting and through discussion with the setting staff during a tour of the childcare provision.

How will settling-in visits be promoted for my child, new to being cared for by someone else?

What is in place to make sure all staff will be familiar with my child's individual needs?

What are the ratios of staff to children generally?

Will my child have a key person, and how many other children might that key person be responsible for?

How do you support children's care routines and their learning and development needs?

How do you keep parents informed of their child's progress?

How does the setting communicate with parents and how often would I be involved in review meetings?

What is included in fees and do you offer the government's free funded places for 2-3 and 4 year olds?

Does the setting have experience of helping children with similar needs to my child, and what training do staff have regarding SEN?

How is SEN information shared between staff that need to know details about my child?

Is it likely my child may be able to access inclusion funding to support their special educational needs in your provision?

What support is available and offered to families of children with SEN?

How would other children be helped to understand my child's individual needs?

Are all areas of the provision accessible to my child?

What should I do if I have concerns about my child?

How is challenging behaviour managed?

Does the setting have a positive behaviour reward system?

How are children supported with transition into their next group at the setting?

Do you have your Ofsted report available for parents to read?