

FACTSHEET 17

Choosing an Out of School Care Service

Out of School Care Clubs are for school-age children to play and learn and have fun in groups. They are usually based in or near schools and more are being set up to help families where parents work, are studying or are in training.

Out of School Care Clubs must be registered with The Care Inspectorate if they are caring for children for more than 2 hours a day and more than 6 days per year. Registered clubs are inspected every year. They are run outside school hours by a team of staff. Activities should be planned to help children learn, play and relax with their friends. Staff will often pick children up from local schools where the club is separate from the school.

There are different types of Out of School Care Clubs so look around to find one that suits you and your child.

Plus points

- Children can learn, relax after school and have fun with their friends
- Geared to the needs of children with working parents
- Variety of activities

What are the different types of Out of School Club?

Breakfast clubs - open in the mornings before school so children can enjoy breakfast there

After school clubs - open in the afternoons between about from when school ends until 6pm. Some clubs open during school holidays between about 8am and 6pm.

How do I know my child will be safe and secure?

First of all you know your child best - look for an Out of School Care Club you feel will be suitable for your child.

Out of School Care Clubs registered with The Care Inspectorate are checked to make sure the staff are suitable to look after children.

All staff have to be working towards a nationally recognised qualification in line with the level of job that they do. Managers have to be qualified to degree level or working towards it. A ratio of 1 member of staff to 10 children is advised although it is up to The Care Inspectorate as the registering authority to decide what ratios should apply depending on the ages of the children. More information about staff ratios can also be found at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Support-Social-Care/Regulate/Standards>

A check is also done on the premises of the Out of School Care Service to ensure it is safe and suitable for the children. After the Out of School Care Club is registered an annual inspection is carried out to ensure a safe and suitable service is being provided. You can view inspection reports online at www.careinspectorate.com.

How many children will be there?

Most Out of School Services provide places for between 10 and 40 children although some are smaller and others are larger.

What age range of children will be there?

Most children attending Out of School Services are aged between 5 and 12. Some services provide places for three and four year olds to fit around nursery or early learning and childcare. Some services provide places geared for older children aged 10-14.

When will services be open?

Out of School Care Clubs can be open before school and care for children after school until about 6pm. During the school holidays they are likely to be open between 8:00am and 6pm.

What about part-time childcare?

Many of Out of School Care Clubs will be happy to offer you part-time childcare. You may need to book regular sessions to make sure a place is available when you need it.

How much will it cost?

Clubs set their own fees.

Prices vary across the country but you can expect to pay between £60 and £80 per child per week for an after school childcare place and between £80 and £120 per child per week for a full time place during the holidays. (These prices are approximate)

How do I find an out of school club?

Email your local Childcare or Family Information Service for up-to-date lists. You can also view information about clubs in Dundee online at our pages on www.families.scot.

Questions To Ask The Out Of School Care Service

What do the children do?

Are there activities such as art, sports or music?

How are they supervised?

How much individual attention do they get?

Do they offer homework facilities?

Who is the leader, and what kind of qualifications and experience do they (and other staff) have? Arrange to meet and talk to them.

Are the staff trained in first aid?

Is there a separate section for younger children? Some can't cope being in a large group of older ones.

What about a quiet area where all children can chill out?

Can I see how the security and signing-in book works?

What are the arrangements for payment?

General information on what to look for in a club or information on a specific club can also be obtained from:

Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN)

Level 2

100 Wellington Street

GLASGOW

G2 6DH

Website - www.soscn.org

For more information about childcare services available in Dundee City please go to www.families.scot or contact DUNDEE CHILDREN & FAMILIES INFORMATION SERVICE at cis@dundeecity.gov.uk or telephone 01382 433900.

Information is available on our Dundee pages of the national website where alongside details about childcare services you can also access our online Directory for further advice, groups, activities and other services available for families locally and nationally

www.families.scot

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