

## **FACTSHEET 31**

### **Home Based Childcare In Scotland**

Childcare Agencies supply or introduce parents to a child carer who looks after children or young people up to the age of 16, wholly or mainly in a child's own home.

Sometimes parents enter into arrangements directly with a child carer for childcare in their home, without the involvement of a childcare agency. In these cases, the arrangements are not subject to regulation by The Care Inspectorate.

Childcare Agencies provide a wide range of services for parents and families who are looking for childcare. The childcare services they offer are usually more flexible, offering childcare at hours to suit each circumstance and in areas not so well served by other facilities.

Child carers can take part in activities with children and escort them to and from school, nursery and other clubs etc. Agencies can also put you in touch with other parents so that childcare needs can be shared making it more affordable and flexible.

Some parents of children with additional support needs also find this type of provision useful.

Childcare Agencies can provide childcare in a child's own home, including at times which fit parental needs such as in the evenings or at weekends.

#### **Who is registered to look after my child in my own home?**

Childcare Agencies such as Sitter Services and Nanny Agencies are required to be registered with The Care Inspectorate to provide care in a child's own home. You can ask the Agency to show you their certificate of registration and inspection reports. These are also available on The Care Inspectorate website at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Why should I use a registered childcare provider?

A registered childcare provider will be registered with The Care Inspectorate. Staff will have undergone an inspection process including an Enhanced Disclosure Check through Disclosure Scotland ([www.disclosurescotland.co.uk](http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk)). They will also be required to meet the relevant National Standards which are designed to ensure that the service provided is of a high quality. For childcare provided in a child's own home the relevant standards are the National Standards for Childcare Agencies. Registration is renewed annually. Details of the registration process and the National Care Standards can be found on the Care Inspectorate website [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

If you are eligible to receive assistance with the costs of childcare through the Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit, then you can only claim this if your childcare provider is registered with the Care Inspectorate. Information on whether you are eligible and how to apply for Tax Credits can be found at [www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/tax-credits](http://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/tax-credits).

Employer provided childcare vouchers are vouchers that your employer can give to you to use to pay your childcare provider. If your employer runs a Childcare Voucher Scheme it is usually available to all of their employees. For more information on Employer Childcare Vouchers see separate **Fact Sheet 30 - Childcare Voucher Information**. You can also access further information and advice at [www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare).

## What is a Sitter Service?

A Sitter Service provides childcare in a child's own home as and when required. Often they provide services for families where the parents work shift patterns or are attending further education (eg night classes). Some parents of children with additional support needs also find this type of provision useful.

## How much does a Sitter Service cost?

Services set their own charges and you would need to speak to your local sitter service to find out how much you would be required to pay. Many services have a scale of charges depending on the parent's circumstances.

### **What restrictions are there on Sitter Service provision?**

Sitter Services may have specific limits on the age or number of children a sitter can provide childcare for. The Service will provide detailed information on its policy and practices.

### **What is a Nanny Agency?**

A Nanny Agency provides nanny services to parents, either employing nannies directly or introducing them to parents. A nanny can either live with the family or come in to the child's home on a daily basis, either full or part time. If your nanny is supplied, or introduced to you through an agency then you may be able to claim the childcare element of Working Tax Credit.

If you choose to employ a nanny directly (not through an agency) then your childcare will not be eligible for the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Childcare Vouchers.

### **How much does a Nanny cost?**

The cost would be agreed with either the agency or the nanny. Cost would depend on how many days the nanny worked and whether this was full or part time employment.

For further information about childcare available in Dundee go to [www.families.scot](http://www.families.scot) or contact Dundee Children & Families Information Service on [cis@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto: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

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[www.families.scot](http://www.families.scot)

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