



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Nottinghamshire Families Information Service

Information for parents & carers

Pre-schools & playgroups

Plus points:

- Children can learn and play in small groups.
- Chance to meet other parents in the same area.
- Can prepare children for school.
- Some offer free early years education for three and four year olds if registered for Nursery Education Funding with Nottinghamshire County Council.

Choosing a pre-school or playgroup:

First you will need a list of registered preschools and playgroups in your area from Nottinghamshire Families Information Service on 0800 7812168.

Phone round the ones near you and see if they have any spaces. If you want to make sure the pre-school/playgroup is right arrange a visit. To get a really clear picture visit a few so you can get an idea for what you like and what you don't.

These are the things to look out for:

- Is it clean?
- Are there play areas inside and out?
- Does it look safe and secure?
- Are there plenty of toys, books and activities?
- Do the children seem happy?
- Do the staff appear caring and welcoming?
- Don't be afraid to ask to speak to other parents who use the pre-school playgroup to find out what they think about it.
- Don't forget to ask about the fees.

Pre-schools and playgroups can be very busy so when you find one you like it is important to let them know as soon as possible that you want to take a place.

Top questions to ask a pre-school/playgroup:

- Can you stay with your child for the first couple of sessions to check they settle in?
- What kind of activities do you provide for children?
- What is the ratio of carers to children?
- What kind of food and drink do you give the children?
- What qualifications or training do the staff have?
- What is the turnover of staff?
- Are back up staff available to cover absences?
- What happens if my child falls sick?
- What safety and security measures are in place?
- How will you pass on information to parents?

Help paying for your childcare

