

Childcare – How do I decide?

In Sheffield, we have a wide range of good quality childcare for children and young people, including those with additional needs.

Here are some tips to help you make a decision about the type of childcare which is best for your child and your family.

- Research your options. (This information folder is useful and you can obtain further and up-to-date information from SIGN).
- Visit a variety of settings.
- Does your child like the setting?
- Did you and your child feel welcomed?
- Ask other parents about their experiences of different providers. Visit www.sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk, or phone 0114 252 1913, and you can be put in touch with other parents and carers of disabled children.
- Take a list of questions with you and don't be afraid to ask.
- Find out if the provider is registered with OFSTED and check their OFSTED report. Registered providers' OFSTED reports available at www.ofsted.gov.uk
- To see a childminder's OFSTED report, you'll need their registration number, which is available from SIGN
- Has the provider received a Charter for Quality Inclusion accreditation?
- Look at the provider's policies and procedures.
- Has the provider received a SNIPS training icon? It shows the provider has attended workshops on including children with additional needs.



Top tips from parents of children with additional needs and disabilities

- Always go with your instincts!
- Look around lots of settings and options before you make a decision.
- Start looking as early as you can.
- Look at the activities /facilities from your child's view point: e.g. what activities would suit your child?
- If possible ensure your child visits the placement with you.
- If possible ensure you can spend some time with your child in their new placement at the beginning.
- Provide information about your child - what they like, don't like and on handling tricky situations.
- Work with the childcare provider to build positive relationships based on what is going well and then tackle any issues/concerns you may have.
- Ensure you are confident that staff could handle any medical emergencies – have they had the necessary training?
- A good, open and flexible relationship with a childminder is essential – give them as much helpful information as possible.
- The main thing is that your child is happy and settled with the childcare provided.

- Note -

The 'Parents' Charter', may help you when choosing childcare for your child. A copy is available from the Inclusion and Learning Service, phone 0114 250 6762



Childcare – different types

An overview of the childcare options available in Sheffield

Children's Centres

Age range: Birth – 5 years

Children's Centres are located in communities around Sheffield and are designed to be inclusive of all families and children. They offer services for families including childcare, family support, health services, support with finding jobs and training and activities for parents with children under 5. All Children's Centres are registered with OFSTED.

Not all Centres offer childcare on-site, although they will have links with other registered providers (Childminders, Day Nurseries). The Children's Centres offering childcare aim to be inclusive and to meet the support needs of all children.

They offer:

- Qualified, experienced staff who have access to a range of training. All staff should hold current CRB checks
- A designated member of staff who has received specific training and has responsibility for children with additional needs (a SENCo or Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator)
- Opportunities to include your child in a range of stimulating activities
- Opportunities for your child to have small and large group play
- Opportunities for your child to meet and play with peers.

Some Children's Centres may offer:

- Flexible hours
- Breakfast clubs/after school clubs/holiday play schemes
- Courses for parents – e.g. Parenting and Baby Massage

An up-to-date list of Children's Centres, including the services which they offer is available from:

SIGN (Sheffield Information Giving Network)

Tel: 0114 266 9476

Email: sign@sheffinfoolink.org.uk



Nursery Classes and Nursery Schools

Age range: 3 years – school admission

Nursery classes are part of the local primary school which they are attached to, and Nursery Schools are stand alone settings. Nursery Schools and Classes offer the support needed to include children with additional needs, and both are run and maintained by Sheffield City Council.

Nursery Schools and classes have:

- Qualified teachers and assistants
- All staff hold up to date CRB checks
- A designated member of staff who has received specific training and has responsibility for children with additional needs - (a SENCo or Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator)
- Opportunities for your child to have small and large group play
- Opportunities for your child to meet and play with peers.

Some may offer:

- Breakfast clubs/after school care and holiday play schemes.

It is advisable to check with individual settings as some nursery classes may only be open during school term time.

An up-to-date list of Nursery Schools and Nursery Classes, is available from:

SIGN (Sheffield Information Giving Network)

Tel: 0114 266 9476

Email: sign@sheffinfolink.org.uk



Free Early Learning

The Local Authority provides Free Early Learning (FEL) places for all eligible children aged three and four. Your child is eligible for FEL from the beginning of the term after their third birthday up until they reach statutory school age or start attending school (see table below).

A child born between	Will be eligible for the FREE Entitlement from:
1 April and 31 August	The start of the Autumn Term (Sep - Dec) following their 3rd birthday until statutory school age, or until they start school.
1 September and 31 December	The start of the Spring Term (Jan-Mar) following their 3rd birthday until statutory school age, or until they start school.
1 January and 31 March	The start of the Summer Term (April-Aug) following their 3rd birthday until statutory school age, or until they start school.

Your child can access up to 15 hours per week for up to 38 weeks per year during school term time. The Free Early Learning hours can be used with a variety of childcare providers including Childminders, Children's Centres, Nursery Schools/Classes and day nurseries. Your child may access FEL at up to 2 different providers.

Further information about the Free Early Learning is available from:

SIGN (Sheffield Information Giving Network)

Tel: 0114 266 9476

Email: sign@sheffinfoolink.org.uk

The Local Authority has a duty to ensure:

- * There is a Free Entitlement place for every eligible child who wants one
- * That there is sufficient childcare to support parents in work or seeking to return to work

The Local Authority does not have to ensure places are available at a particular provider or on a particular day or time.



Day Nurseries

Age range: 3 months – 5 years, but this varies between with individual nurseries

A Day Nursery may be a private nursery run on a commercial basis, a workplace or college nursery for employees or students, or a non profit nursery – usually operating in a local community. On whatever basis a Day Nursery is set up, it is required to be registered and inspected by OFSTED. All Day Nurseries are expected to be able to include children with additional needs.

A Day Nursery will be able to offer you:

- Qualified, experienced staff who have access to a range of training. All staff should also hold an up to date CRB check.
- A designated member of staff who has specific training and has responsibility for children with additional needs (called a SENCo or Special Educational Needs Coordinator)
- Opportunities to include your child in a range of stimulating activities
- Opportunities for your child to have small and large group play
- Opportunities for your child to meet and play with peers.

A Day Nursery may also offer you:

- Flexible hours
- Breakfast clubs/ after school clubs/ holiday play schemes.

A list of Day Nurseries in Sheffield is available from:

SIGN (Sheffield Information Giving Network)

Tel: 0114 266 9476

Email: sign@sheffinfolink.org.uk



Childminding Services

Age range: 0 -19 years

Choosing childcare in a home environment can be a good option for all children including those who may need some level of additional support and a nurturing environment.

One advantage of using a childminder is that they have a smaller group of children – some even offer one-to-one-care. Usually, childminders have a mixed age group of children. They provide opportunities for your child to take part in stimulating experiences alongside other children. A good quality childminder offers a warm and inclusive home environment, and will meet the individual needs of your child.

Childminders can care for children aged 0-19. They may offer to:

- Take your child to school
- Collect your child from school
- Support parents with a range of work patterns
- Offer a flexible service
- May be available in school holidays / offer overnight care.

There are many childminders across the city with qualifications in Early Years and a wealth of experience caring for children with additional needs. Many have experience in related careers such as nursing, teaching and speech and language therapy. All childminders are registered by OFSTED to care for children in their own home. Many childminders are members of the Sheffield 'Children Come First' Childminding Network and will have achieved a minimum of a 'Good' OFSTED Inspection rating.

A full list of Childminders operating in Sheffield is available from:

- **SIGN (Sheffield Information Giving Network) – 0114 266 9476**
- **The Community Based Childcare Team – 0114 250 6762**
- Your local Children's Centre will have information about childminders working in the area.

This list details each registered childminder's qualifications and training, experience (including working with children with specific disabilities), transport and age ranges.

It will also give the childminder's address, contact details and OFSTED registration number, (which you will need if you want to look up their OFSTED report). Network Co-ordinators from the Community Based Childcare team work closely with the Childminders across the city.

They offer support and training to ensure that childminders are able to meet the individual needs of families and children with additional needs.

Over 75 childminders have attended a variety of specialist training courses.

Individual profiles and contact details of childminders who attended this training are available from:

SIGN (Sheffield Information Giving Network)

Tel: 0114 266 9476

Email: sign@sheffinfolink.org.uk



Nannies

Age range 0-19 years

Nannies work with your child in your own home environment, meaning your child's surroundings and routines are familiar and easily maintained.

Nannies may offer care for all the children in your home, which can help to reduce your childcare costs if you have more than one child. Parents from two or more families may choose to share a nanny. In some circumstances, a nanny may "live in" at the family home, and in this case it is expected that accommodation and food are included in addition to the agreed salary.

There is no compulsory registration or inspection process for nannies, therefore it is strongly recommended you check all references, qualifications, insurances and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks prior to employing a nanny. Some nannies may be on the OFSTED Voluntary Register

- Note -

It is important to know that if you choose to use a nanny, then you are considered to be their employer and you will be responsible for their tax, national insurance contributions and Employers liability insurance for yourself.



Nannies care for children aged 0-19. They can:

- Take your child to school
- Collect your child from school
- Take your child to groups and activities
- Support parents with a range of work patterns
- Offer a flexible service
- Be available in school holidays.

Nannies in Sheffield can request training and support via The Community based Childcare Team.

Further information and a list of Nanny Agencies operating in Sheffield are available from:

SIGN (Sheffield Information Giving Network)

Tel: 0114 266 9476

Email: sign@sheffinfoolink.org.uk

The Community Based Childcare Team – 0114 250 6762

- Note -

In order to claim working tax credits, your nanny will need to be registered on the OFSTED Voluntary Register.



Out of school clubs

(Includes after school clubs, holiday clubs and breakfast clubs)

Age range: 4-11 years

Out of School Clubs provide play and recreation activities, including offsite activities and trips. Group care is provided at the club premises for children aged 4 – 11 years, offering opportunities for your child to socialise with other children.

Clubs are registered with OFSTED and run by staff who hold relevant playwork qualifications.

Breakfast Clubs and After School Clubs are registered with Ofsted to provide care for children aged 4-11 years, but can extend this registration to 12 years if the child is still in primary school. Some schools will extend their registration to provide care up to 18 years for children with additional needs.

Holiday Clubs are usually registered to provide care for children and young people aged 4 - 18 years, but parents and carers should always check the age limit with individual clubs. Opening hours also vary so again, you should check this information with individual clubs.

Training and workshops for Out of School Clubs

Out of School club providers may need extra support to enable a child attending their setting to reach their full potential.

SNIPS (Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service) provides training and mentoring support to childcare providers and personal assistants who work with children and young people with additional needs aged 4 – 18 years.

A dedicated team of SNIPS Playcare Mentors can provide tailored support to the club, ensuring that appropriate guidance, support and resources are in place for your child.

Further information and a map with Sheffield's Out of School Clubs is available from:

SIGN (Sheffield Information Giving Network)

Tel: 0114 266 9476

Email: sign@sheffinfoink.org.uk

SNIPS – www.sheffield.gov.uk/playcare





Individual Support

As the parent/carer of a child or young person with additional needs, you may feel that your child's needs could be better met through some individual support, in which case there are several choices available.

The Sheffield Community Based Childcare Team have a number of dedicated Specialist Home Based Child Carers. These individuals are registered with Ofsted and able to offer flexible child care including working in the child's own home. They can offer:

- Holiday and after school care
- Supportive befriending relationships
- Support on trips out
- Mentoring opportunities with older children
- Day care for children aged under 5.

All of the Home Based Child carers have:

- Undertaken Safeguarding Children training
- Undertaken training specifically to work with children with additional needs
- Been CRB checked
- Received First Aid Training.



Home Based Child Care - 2 options

Volunteers:

Offer a free service (expenses to be paid by the family). They are able to provide an “extra pair of hands” to help a family with activities, outings and social interaction. They can also offer social contact and befriending opportunities.

(Please note that volunteers must not be left in sole charge of your child).

Practitioners:

These are paid workers who are self employed and OFSTED registered. They can care for your child in your home or take your child out on trips and social activities. A Practitioner is able to be left in sole charge of your child, and may be able to look after siblings.

Further information about the Volunteers and Practitioners is available from:

SIGN (Sheffield Information Giving Network)

Tel: 0114 266 9476

Email: sign@sheffinfolink.org.uk



'Skools Out'

Skools Out is part of the Burton Street Foundation's range of services. They can provide a worker to support individual children and young people with additional needs aged 8 – 18 years. This service is available to parents and carers who are working or in full time education and includes:

- Collecting your child from school
- Taking your child to participate in play, recreation and leisure activities of your/ their choice
- Meeting you at home or somewhere convenient to you at the end of the session.

The support workers are dedicated to working with children and young people with additional needs. The Support Worker will provide regular and consistent support for your child.

Childcare can be provided up to 7pm, during term time. Parents pay £3.25 per hour plus any additional costs for transport and activities.

The support workers have completed a training programme provided by the Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service (SNIPS).

Further information is available from:

Burton Street Project Tel: 0114 233 2908

Website: www.burtonstreet.co.uk





Ready Steady Go - Groups

If you have any concerns about your child's development, please come to your local Ready Steady Go group, where:

- Your child can play and learn
- You can meet with other parents and carers
- Advice will be available from a variety of services including Speech and Language Therapy, Portage and Early Years Inclusion team
- No need to book, these are free drop-in sessions
- **Please note:** You are expected to stay in the session with your child

S2

Newfield Green Clinic

Friday 9.30 – 11.30 (term time only)

501 Gleadless Road, S2 2BS

Contact: Lisa Longford

Tel: 0114 241 6968

S4

Owler Brook Children's Centre

Friday 1 – 3pm

Wensley Street, S4 8HQ

Contact: Hafeeza Shoaib

Tel: 0114 252 5220

WATOTO Pre-School

Tuesday 1 – 3pm

139 Catherine Road, S4 7HJ

Contact: Lillan Linton

Tel: 0114 275 1817

S5

Early Days Children's Centre

Wednesday 9.30 – 11.30am

71 Palgrave Road, S5 8GS

Contact: Carley Redgate

Tel: 0114 250 3060

S6

Hilsborough Children's Centre

Wednesday 9 – 11am

Parkside Road, S6 2AD

Contact Cheynene Grosset:

Tel: 0114 233 5108

Primrose Children's Centre

Tuesday 9 – 11.30am

Creswick Street, S6 2TN

Contact: Elizabeth Skerrit

Tel: 0114 233 519

S7

Holt House Children' Centre

Monday 9 – 12am
Bannerdale Road, S7 2EW
Contact: Natalie Hammond
Tel: 0114 255 3717
Please call before you attend

S8

Lowedges Tenants Hall

Friday 1 – 2.30pm
Outreach Building, (new building
by Youth Centre)
Gresley Road, Lowedges
Contact: Jane Richards
Tel: 0114 241 6968

S9

Darnall Children's Centre

Thursday 1 – 3pm
563 Staniforth Road, S9 4RA
Contact: Dawn Ware
Tel: 0114 242 3510

Tinsley Green Children's Centre

Monday 1 – 3pm
34A Norborough Road, S9 1SG
Contact: Genine Nutall
Tel: 0114 244 8885 /
Contact: Paula Poole
Tel: 0114 244 8899

S10

Broomhall Nursery School and Children's Centre

Tuesday 1 – 3pm
4 Broomhall Road, S10 2DN
Contact: Vicki Ahmed
Tel: 0114 272 1453

S11

Sharrow Sure Start Centre

Thursday 10 – 12am
110 Sharrow Lane, S11 8AL
Contact: Debbie Miller
Tel: 0114 250 7373

S12

Hackenthorpe Hall Nursery

Thursday 9.30 – 11.30am
28 Main Street, S12 4LB
Contact: Natalie Robinson
Tel: 0114 250 3635

S13

Sunny Meadows

Tuesday 9.30 – 11.30am
414 Handsworth Road, S13 9BZ
Contact: Kay
Tel: 0114 269 3549

S35

Angram Bank Children's Centre

Thursday 10 – 11.30am
Kinsey Road, S35 4HN
Contact: Joanne Elson
Tel: 0114 284 6204

Further information about **Ready
Steady Go** Groups is available from:

**Linda Wright – 07837 188995 /
linda.wright@sheffield.gov.uk**

Out of School Provision

Age range - 4 years and upward

Children are able to learn and play in a safe environment in an out of school setting.

They have the opportunity to participate in a range of stimulating activities, including sports, arts, crafts, drama, games or reading with other children. Clubs aim to help children develop their full potential through positive social, emotional, physical and intellectual experiences. Clubs are run by staff who hold relevant playwork or equivalent qualifications. Most out of school settings operate as one or a combination of the following types:

Before school care

Care for children before the school day begins, ideal for working parents. These clubs often offer a healthy breakfast and stimulating fun activities before the children are taken to school.

After School care

Children who attend After School Care will find fun, games, laughter and stimulating activities. Parents can have peace of mind knowing that their children are well cared for and engaged in safe, healthy activities after school – where activities are planned to help children learn, play and relax with their friends. Children also get a healthy snack or meal.

Holiday care

These can operate in a couple of ways – ‘childcare’ with schemes taking children from 4 years and ‘open access’ schemes for children aged 8 years and over. These are ideal for working parents, attendance at a club allows children to grow in confidence, meet friends, try new ideas and activities and go on trips and excursions. The emphasis is fun - helping children develop their social, physical, creative and intellectual skills.

A map with setting locations, contact details, opening hours and admission information is available from:

SIGN: 0114 2669476 www.sheffinfolink.org.uk

SNIPS: www.sheffield.gov.uk/playcare

SIL: www.asksid.org.uk

The map also provides information about whether the club has a SNIPS Training Icon or holds the Charter for Quality award.





Direct Payments

Currently, SNIPS offer working parents /carers the option of receiving a Direct Payment for childcare to cover the additional element of childcare (e.g. the cost of 1:1 support in a childcare setting).

This is money given directly to parents /carers and can be used to employ a Personal Assistant (PA) to meet their childcare requirements. A PA could look after your child in your own home or support the child to access universal recreation and leisure services.

It is important to note that there are also direct payments available for social care.

Direct payment hours are paid for the actual hours that you are in work (including reasonable travelling time).

You are eligible to access Direct Payments if:

1. Your disabled child or young person is of statutory school age (the term following their fifth birthday). This age criteria is currently being reviewed.
2. Two parents or carers in the household are in paid employment or undertaking relevant training.
3. Parents and Carers must be willing and able to undertake the financial responsibility of managing a Direct Payment and of employing staff.
4. Parents and Carers contribute £3.25 per hour.

Further information is available from:

SNIPS - Tel: 0114 273 4017

Email: cypdsnips@sheffield.gov.uk



- Note -

Parents and Carers must have parental responsibility for the disabled child or young person.



Help with **Childcare Costs**

Childcare Vouchers

Some employers offer Childcare Vouchers or a “Salary Sacrifice”. Vouchers are accepted by various childcare providers including childminders, after school clubs, holiday clubs and day nurseries.

You purchase Childcare Vouchers direct from your salary, pre Income Tax and National Insurance deductions, and can claim up to a maximum of £243 of vouchers per parent per month. To find out if your employer offers a salary sacrifice scheme, contact your Human Resources department. It is advisable to contact the childcare provider direct to confirm if they accept vouchers.

For more information about childcare vouchers and salary sacrifice contact:

SIGN Tel: 0114 266 9476
Email: sign@sheffinfolink.org.uk

Disability Living Allowance

If you are claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA), you may choose to use this to help with the day to day costs of childcare for your child. For more information on Disability Living Allowance contact:

Disability Benefits Helpline on 0845 7123456

- Note -

You can get help completing forms from the Citizens Advice Bureau. Find your local branch at

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Carers Allowance

You may be entitled to claim Carers Allowance if you are in receipt of Middle rate or Higher Rate DLA. Further information is available from:

SIGN Tel: 0114 266 9476
Email: sign@sheffinfolink.org.uk

Tax Credits

As part of Working Tax Credits, you may qualify for extra help towards the cost of registered or approved childcare. This is called the Child Care element of the Working Tax Credit. You may also be able to claim additional Tax Credits if you have a child with a disability. You can check your eligibility for Tax Credits and make a claim at the HM Revenue and Customs website: www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits, or phone the Tax Credit Helpline on 0845 300 3900, or textphone 0845 300 3909. Further information is also available from:

SIGN Tel: 0114 266 9476
Email: sign@sheffinfolink.org.uk





Financial Support for Childcare Providers

- **The Early Years Intervention Grant** can be accessed by private, voluntary and independent childcare providers – including day nurseries, Children's Centres, nursery classes / schools, and childminders. It is used to cover additional costs of caring for a disabled child under the age of 5. The grant can be used to cover term time and school holidays support, and it is applied for and accessed through the Early Years Inclusion Team.

Further information is available from:

The Early Years Inclusion Team - 0114 239 8336 or discuss this with your setting and Early Years Inclusion Worker

- Childminders caring for a child aged 4 years or over can also apply to the **Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service (SNIPS)** for a grant to make reasonable adjustments such as reducing the number of children that they take, or employing an assistant that has been approved by their registered body.
- Out of School Clubs (including holiday clubs) can apply directly to SNIPS for an **Inclusion Grant** to pay for additional staffing or specialist support to enable a child or young person with additional needs to attend.

Further information available from:

SNIPS Tel: 0114 273 4017

Email: cypdsnips@sheffield.gov.uk



Who you can contact if you are having difficulties with your childcare setting

- In the first instance, talk to any professional that is working with you and/ or your child who may be able to advise and signpost you to appropriate support.
- If your child is aged 0-5 years, you could contact the Early Years Inclusion Team on 0114 239 83366.
- If your child is aged 5 – 18 years, talk to SNIPS (Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service). They may be able to help you and work with the service provider to sort out the difficulties that you are experiencing. SNIPS are also able to offer advice about compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act, charging policies, and your child's individual care, support and participation.
- **If you wish to make a formal complaint, all childcare providers should have a “Comments, Compliments and Complaints” procedure. If you are not satisfied with the outcome following the complaints procedure, you can contact OFSTED and register your concerns. OFSTED Tel: 0300 123 1231 or write to:**

**OFSTED,
The National Business Unit,
The Royal Exchange Buildings,
St Ann's Square,
Manchester, M2 7LA**

If your concern is of a Safeguarding nature, then please contact Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board,

Tel: 0114 273 4450 / 2735195
or
Email: sscb@sheffield.gov.uk



Other Information

Flexible Working

From April 2009 the right to request a flexible working pattern is extended to parents and carers with children aged 16 and under, or disabled children aged 18 and under.

Employers have a duty to consider these applications seriously and can only refuse an application if there are good business reasons for doing so.

Further information is available from:

SIGN Tel: 0114 266 9476

Email: sign@sheffinfolink.org.uk

Parental Leave

If you have a child aged under 5, **or under 18 if your child is disabled**, you may have the right to parental leave. To qualify you must be an employee and have at least one year's continuous service where you work.

If your child receives Disability Living Allowance, each parent has the right to take up to 18 weeks' parental leave until their 18th birthday.

Statutory parental leave is unpaid, but check your employment contract - your employer might offer you pay. If you are on a low income, you might get Income Support.

All employees have a right to take a reasonable amount of unpaid time off to deal with certain emergencies involving people they care for. This is known as time off for dependant, and applies regardless of how long you have been working for your employer.



Transport Services

If your child has a statement of special education needs (SEN), you may be entitled to Transport Assistance.

Current SEN Transport Policy states that they are only able to transport your child between home and school. There is no system in place to take your child to a club /other address after school.

If you are considering after school care for your child, then you may find it useful to look at the Individual Support section as there are some solutions included in that section, including befriending schemes.

The full SEN Transport Policy can be found at:

www.sheffield.gov.uk

Childcare Sufficiency

The Children Act 2006 places a legal duty on every Local Authority to ensure that there is sufficient childcare available to enable parents to work or undertake training to work.

The Children Act also states that the childcare provided must be sufficiently inclusive to enable all children to access it, including those with special educational needs and disabilities. The Sufficiency guidance states that it is important that children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are able to participate in the same kind of childcare as their peers.

If there is no suitable childcare available in your area, the local authority should provide brokerage support for you to ensure your childcare needs are met.



Other information

Charter For Quality - RAISING THE STANDARD FOR YOUNG CHILDREN'S CARE

The "Charter for Quality" has been launched in Sheffield to help identify quality settings for children across the city, including childminders, nurseries, play groups, schools and out of school clubs.

Charters for Quality have been developed and tailored to different types of providers - private, voluntary and independent. There are currently Charters for the Early Years, Childminding, Playwork and Inclusion (as well as plans for one aimed at Year 1).

The Charter sets out standards of quality and clearly states a shared vision that everyone should be working towards.

By looking for the special Charter for Quality logo parents and carers can feel safe in the knowledge that this setting has been assessed as a good place to leave their child.

All the settings that apply for Sheffield's Charter for Quality are assessed to ensure they meet the criteria for the award. The assessor's report is then considered by a cross-sector moderation panel. This panel makes the decision about awarding the Charter for Quality Award.

For further information about the Charter for Quality contact the Early Years team:

Tel: 0114 250 6852

Email: earlyyearsbusinesssupport@sheffield.gov.uk



The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 (which replaces previous equality legislation such as the Disability Discrimination Act) makes it unlawful for any service provider (including childcare providers, schools, businesses and organisations) to treat disabled people less favourably than other people because of their disability.

Importantly for carers the new Act has added the concept of indirect discrimination where someone associated with a disabled person or anyone else covered by the Act is discriminated against because of their association, for example, a restaurant refuses you admittance because you have a disabled child with you. It also requires them to make reasonable adjustments to make their services accessible to disabled people.

This is an “anticipatory” duty – in other words services and settings should make arrangements in advance or take reasonable steps in anticipation of needs arising, so that potential users are not placed at a disadvantage. It is not acceptable to wait until the need arises or to expect a disabled person to pay for any changes through higher fees etc.



OFSTED - Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills

Ofsted inspects and regulates a wide range of services. These include child minding, day care services and children's centres. The Office carries out regular inspections of settings in England – currently every 3-5 years. The settings are assessed in a number of specific areas, and rated overall on a 4-point scale: 1 (Outstanding), 2 (Good), 3 (Satisfactory) and 4 (Inadequate).

After the inspection, Ofsted will publish a report on their website.

Further information about Ofsted is available from:

SIGN Tel: 0114 266 9476

Email: sign@sheffinfolink.org.uk



To look at the Ofsted report for a setting, please visit:

www.ofsted.gov.uk

If you wish to look at a childminder's Ofsted Inspection Report, please contact SIGN for their registration number.



Useful contacts

SIGN Sheffield Information Giving Network /SIGN

Parents and professionals can contact us for a range of information about support and services for children with disabilities and additional needs

Tel: 0114 266 9476

SNIPS

Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service provide training and mentoring support to childcare providers and personal assistants who work with children with additional needs aged 4-18 years.

Tel: 0114 273 4017

Benefits Enquiry Line

Government information service for disabled people and carers that can advise on the range of benefits available and send out claim forms.

Tel: 0800 88 22 00 Textphone: 0800 24 33 55

Working for families is the UK's leading work-life balance organisation. Their website includes a section especially for parents of disabled children.

www.workingfamilies.org.uk

Tel: 0800 013 0313

Email: advice@workingfamilies.org.uk.

Contact-a-Family provides information, advice and support to families of children with disabilities.

Tel: 0808 808 3555

Textphone: 0808 808 3556

E-mail: helpline@cafamily.org.uk

Website: www.cafamily.org.uk

The Daycare Trust is the national childcare charity. They have a range of factsheets and booklets about childcare for disabled children.

www.daycaretrust.org.uk

Tel: 0845 872 6260 (020 7940 7510)

Email: info@daycaretrust.org.uk

For information about local support groups contact

SIGN Tel: 0114 266 9476

Email: sign@sheffinfolink.org.uk

