



# eat safe

What to consider and ask when considering childcare settings

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## What to consider and ask when considering childcare settings

When considering childcare provision, it may be helpful to be prepared with questions to ask prospective providers and know what information you want to have before making a decision. This sheet provides some questions or information you may wish to consider, although is not exhaustive.

### Making use of childcare provision can be daunting for parents and carers.

These questions may help to reassure that trust can be placed in the professionals providing childcare, but you may also wish to ask other questions, for example, about your personal circumstances, child's routine, and fees.

Providers should be open in answering questions that you have.



## Questions to consider asking

What is the **ratio of staff to children**? How many children are cared for at any one time? Which staff are included within ratio (i.e. apprentices)? Are there times when the ratios are different to the norm, for example, on outings?

What **safeguarding and other policies** does the provider have and are these available to parents and carers?

Are children **assigned a key worker**? Who will be **primarily responsible** for their wellbeing?

What **qualifications** do staff hold, including **paediatric first aid**?

If my child requires **medication**, what is the **process for this being given**?

How are **individual needs** of children reviewed and met?

How are meals and snacks provided? **Can dietary needs be met**? How will appropriate food textures for children be understood and provided? **Does the provider have a safe eating policy**?

How will children's **behaviour** be managed?

How are parents or carers **notified of any injuries or incidents**? Where are these recorded?

If children will be **taken off-site or transported** what are the **transport arrangements** (including child car seats)?

What is the **social media usage** of the setting? Will my child's **identity be protected**?

## Information to consider seeking

Most recent **Ofsted inspection**

**References** from other parents and carers



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[www.kscmp.org.uk/guidance/eatsafe](http://www.kscmp.org.uk/guidance/eatsafe)

In memory of  
Oliver Steeper

