



# Types of Child Care

## Long day care

- Generally provided in a building or part of a building that has been created specifically for use as a child care centre.
- Usually operate between 7:30 am and 6:00 pm
- Offer professional care for children aged 0-6.
- Children are usually grouped in rooms according to age and developmental stage.
- Many centres offer meals throughout the day including morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. If a centre does not offer meals then families will need to provide their own.
- Most Long Day Care centres will have an early education component to their program
- Run by private companies, local councils, community organisations, individuals, non-profit organisations or by employers for their staff.
- The majority of Long Day Care centres are approved child care services (meeting certain quality standards). This means that families using the service may be eligible for Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Rebate.

## Family Day Care (FDC)

- FDC services deliver flexible home-based education and care for children via a network of FDC educators in their homes.
- FDC services can provide flexible care, including all-day care, part-time, casual, overnight, before and after school care, and care during school holidays.
- FDC educators and services must meet their obligations under the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care and comply with the Early Childhood Services Education and Care National Law and National Regulations, and any other applicable state and territory regulations.
- An educator may provide care in their home for the maximum number of children, including their own children.
- The majority of Family Day Care services are approved child care services.

## In Home Care (IHC)

- IHC is similar to Family Day Care but the professional carer looks after the child in your child's home.



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- It is not widely available and usually only an option where other forms of care are not suitable.
- Suitable for families with children who cannot be cared for by other child care services or to whom one or more of the following applies:
  - the child has, or lives with another child who has, an illness or disability
  - the child's guardian (or guardian's partner) has an illness or disability that affects their ability to care for the child
  - the child lives in a rural or remote area
  - the work hours of the child's guardian (or guardian's partner) are hours when no other approved child care service is available
  - the child's guardian (or guardian's partner) is caring for three or more children who have not yet started school.

## Outside School Hours Care

- These centres provide care for primary school aged children, before and after school (7:30 am -9:00 am and 3:00 pm -6:00 pm), during school holidays and on pupil-free days.
- Vacation Care is a type of Outside School Hours Care that includes indoor and outdoor activities.
- Centres are usually located on primary school sites in the school hall and/or playground. Some centres are located in a child care centre, community facility or outside-school hours care centre near the primary school.
- Many centres offer a snack as well as the Sporting Schools exercise program.
- The majority of Outside School Hours Care centres are approved child care services.

## Occasional Care

- Occasional Care offers professional care for children on a casual basis.
- This service is suitable for families who do not need child care on a regular basis but would like someone to look after their children occasionally, for example when they have a medical or other appointment.
- Most Occasional Care centres have flexible operating hours and can cater for children whose parents work irregular or unpredictable hours (e.g. shift workers).



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### Questions:

1. You are a full-time mother at the moment. However, you need child care once in a while for various reasons. What type of child care is the most suitable one for you?
2. You work part-time and are looking for a child care for your 4 year old child. You have a good friend who is qualified in childcare and running child care at her home with her two children. You feel more comfortable entrusting your child in the care of someone you trust and in a home environment. Which child care is the most suitable one for you?
3. What law does a Family Day Care educator need to abide by?
4. Under what conditions would In Home Care be suitable for you?
5. What services do Outside School Hour Care provide?
6. You are working full time and need a child care for your 2 year old child. You like a centre-based care rather than home-based. You normally leave home at 7.30 am to start work at 9 am. You usually get back home at 6.30 pm. Which child care is the most suitable one for you?