

Childcare Provisions
Children Act 1989

Requirements for Full Day Care – Standards for under 8's
Day care and childminding

A Hotel which provides Day Care – any form of care or supervised activity for children under the age of eight for a time period exceeding two hours in a day – falls within the requirements of this Act.

'Any form of Care' includes such matters as baby listening, baby-sitting and any service which purports to provide for the health, safety or welfare of a child under eight.

Hotels exceeding the two hours per daytime limit are required to register with the Local Authority, who have powers to refuse an application for registration, specify maximum numbers of children, require premises to be up-graded, specify the number of persons required to look after specific numbers of children and require records to be kept relating to children/carers.

Other than for special situations, it must be more attractive to us to avoid the need for registration under the Act.

1. Baby Sitting

- 1.1 Baby sitting can be provided by an external Registered Child Minding Company.
- 1.2 The attached card is to be issued emphasising that the arrangement is between parent and the Child Minding Company. Hilton merely make an introduction without responsibility or warranty.

2. Baby Listening

The key is that we provide a service which parents can use, not that we provide a baby listening service. Such service can be through:-

- 2.1 Phone technology i.e. parent requests service from reception, is given code and thereafter goes to a specific house phone and dials room whenever he/she wishes (contact Systems Department for installation).
- 2.2 Until a phone system is upgraded, parent goes to reception (at times chosen by parent) and asks to listen to room; we do not listen either then or on 'spot check' basis.
Parents must be informed as to which (if either) service is available; if for any reason, neither of such services can be provided, then no baby listening service can be given.

3. Unsupervised Activities

- 3.1 The 'fun house' (and similar facilities) are (and must be) clearly identified as an unsupervised area, where children must be watched by their parents.

4. Children's Teas

- 4.1 Children's teas are not 'any form of care' if we are merely providing a catering service. Parents must not be excluded from children's teas, and it should not be implied that they are free to leave their children under 8.
- 4.2 If, when offering children's teas we state, or imply, that children under 8 can be left unsupervised by a parent, then time spent at that tea will count towards the two hour limit. This will not be a problem for very young children, who will presumably not have spent any other time in the day being supervised by the Hotel.

5. Swimming Pool

Children under age 16 must always be supervised by the parent, as per the current displayed swimming pool safety code.

Definition: facilities that provide day care for children under 8 for a continuous period of 4 hours or more in any day in premises which are not domestic premises.

Suitable Person / Staff Requirements

Staff must not have been convicted of an offence which disqualifies them from registration under schedule 9a of the Children Act 1989, any person not vetted must not be left alone with the children.

Qualifications – the manager should hold a level 3 qualification appropriate to the post and have 2 years experience in a day care setting. All other staff must have the appropriate experience, skills and experience to perform their job roles. At least half the staff must hold a level 2 qualification and all staff must have received safety training.

Trainees under the age of 17 must be directly supervised and are not counted in staffing ratios. Accessible records must be available on the premises of the name and address of all staff.

Group Size

Must not exceed 26 children with 2 adults on duty at all times.

Staffing ratios

- 1:3 Children under 2 years
1:4 Children aged 2 years
1:8 children aged 3-7 year

The name, address and date of birth of all children being looked after must be recorded.

Premises

Must be clean, well lit and with adequate natural lighting, adequately ventilated and in a suitable state of repair. There must be access to a telephone on the premises.

Space standards

Age

Under 2 years	3.5 sq.mtrs
2 years	2.5 sq. mtrs
3-7 years	2.3 sq mtrs

1 toilet and one hand wash basin with hot and cold water available for every 10 children over the age of 2 years with separate facilities for adults are required.

Risk assessments must be completed with clearly defined procedures for emergency evacuation of the children.

Medicines

Must be stored in their original containers, clearly labelled and inaccessible to children and written permission is provided by the parent to administer the medication.

There must be a policy of exclusion of children who are ill or infectious and a means of contacting parents or a designated adult in the event of a child becoming ill whilst in care.

Food and Drink

Fresh drinking water must be available to children at all times.

Behaviour

Physical punishments are not threatened or used and a written statement on behaviour management is available.

Information given to parents

- Admissions policy, hours, staff contact and staffing, routines etc
- Role of parents
- Details of policies and procedures which are available to parents
- A written complaints procedure
- Information about activities provided

Additional Information in relation to babies / children under 2

- Children under 2 are cared for in groups of no more than 12
- 50% of staff must be trained in caring for babies
- there must be a separate room for children under the age of 2
- nappy changing facilities must be provided
- quiet areas are to be available to enable individual sleep patterns to be facilitated
- sleeping babies must be frequently checked
- when in high or low chairs children must be restrained with harnesses
- sterilisation procedures must be available for babies feeding equipment

Sessional Day Care: Guidance to the National Standards

Suitable Person – person in charge

Person in charge should be suitable (some suggestions are given below)

- Diploma in Nursery Nursing (NNEB)
- B Tec National Diploma / Certificate in early Childhood Studies
- NVQ Level 3 in Childcare and Education
- Pre school learning alliance diploma in Playgroup Practice
- Teaching certificate
- Qualified teacher status
- Health visiting certificate
- Appropriate level 3 social work qualifications
- Appropriate level 3 nursing qualification

Similar standards are applicable for crèches

Registration with Ofsted – Do you need to register?

Ofsted was formed in 1993 and is responsible for inspecting the quality of education in all state maintained nursery schools in England. In 2001 Ofsted became the regulator for childcare aged under the age of 8.

The stages of Ofsted inspection

- Registration
- Inspection
- Investigation
- Enforcement

To become registered:

Contact Childcarelink 0800 096 0296 or Ofsted on 08456 404040

Inspectors must:

- Evaluate the provision objectively against the standards
- Report honestly and fairly, ensuring that judgements accurately and reliably reflect what the provider does and achieves
- Carry out their work with integrity, treating all those they meet with courtesy and sensitivity
- Do all they can to minimise stress and bureaucracy
- Act with the best interests and the well being of children and adults as priorities
- Maintain purposeful dialogue with adults, and communicate judgements of their provision and work, clearly, frankly and sensitively
- Respect the confidentiality of information they receive but state any concerns about child protection matters are reported to the appropriate agency

More Information

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