

**The new Ofsted – the Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills – came into being on 1 April 2007. Ofsted inspects and regulates care for children and young people, and inspects education and training for learners of all ages.**

Registering with Ofsted helps to make sure children and young people are cared for in the safe environment they need.

Most childcare providers already have to register with Ofsted. Changes in the law mean that those who don’t have to register can now **choose** to join the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register.

### New Ofsted Childcare Registers

Ofsted has two new registers.

- Early Years Register.
- Childcare Register in two parts - **compulsory** and **voluntary**.

### Early Years Register

You must register on the Early Years Register if you care for children from birth to the 31 August following their fifth birthday, unless you do not have to register your care and are ‘exempt from registration’.

**The Childcare (Exemption from Registration) Order 2008** sets out who is exempt from registration. You can find this at

[www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi\\_20080979\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20080979_en_1)

Childcare providers on the Early Years Register and schools must deliver the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**.

The EYFS combines:

- the *Birth to Three Matters Framework*
- the *National Standards for Under 8’s Daycare and Childminding*
- the *Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage*.

The EYFS sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to the 31 August following their fifth birthday.

### Compulsory Childcare Register

This includes childcare providers who:

- provide care for children aged eight and under; such as childminders or care provided in out-of-school clubs, holiday clubs, playschemes, play-centres and open access play settings
- offer activity-based care; such as sports, drama, language or arts clubs.

## Voluntary Childcare Register

You can choose to register if you provide care that does not fall into the categories set out in the other sections.

This includes:

- home-based care in the home of the child; such as nannies
- activity-based settings; such as sports coaching or tuition
- short-term care; such as crèches
- care that is only for children aged eight to 18.

### Why go on to the voluntary register?

If you register on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register:

- parents will know that you have met basic standards designed to safeguard children
- eligible parents will be able to get help with the cost of childcare through Working Tax Credit and employer-supported childcare schemes

- you will be able to get support and training from Devon County Council and we will pass your details on to parents who are looking for childcare
- you may be able to work with schools who use external organisations to provide an extended service as they are encouraged to work only with registered providers.

For more information contact the Registration and Inspection Advice Team on **01392 381598**

To register contact Ofsted on **08456 40 40 40** or visit **[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)**