

# Nursery Checklist

To help you pick the right nursery for you and your child.

## The basics

- What are the nursery fees? How does the nursery manage any government rebates?
- Is there availability on the days you require?
- What age range does the nursery cater for?
- What are the nursery opening hours? Does this fit in with your daily routine?
- What dates in the year does the nursery close?

## The facilities

- What are the facilities like in general? What is your instinctive feeling?
- Is the equipment well maintained and modern?
- Is there a variety of indoor and outdoor space?
- Do the rooms look stimulating? Is there children's projects and art displayed on walls?
- Is the facility clean? Ask about hygiene routines and check the toilets!
- Is the sleeping area and quiet area peaceful and comforting?
- Do the other children look happy and content?

## Food

- Does the nursery provide food? What meals does this cover?
- Does the nursery take into account nutritional guidelines? Ask to see a menu.
- What are the arrangements for allergies, intolerances, cultural and religious diet requirements?

## Curriculum

- Does the nursery follow the recognised national curriculums?
- Ask to see an example of the children's daily diaries and daily routines. Is it informative?  
Structure is important, but so is flexibility with little children.
- Does the nursery have a good balance of care and learning? Is there scope for developing and recognising your child's needs and strengths?

## People

- Do the staff look happy and engaged with the children? Do you like them as people?
- Are the staff forthcoming in introducing themselves? What qualifications do they hold?
- Who runs the nursery on a daily basis? Is the nursery owner and manager active and available in the nursery setting?
- Ask about staff turnover in the last year. Is there a low staff turnover?
- Are the staff well presented? Do they engage well with each other and the children in their care?
- What is the staff to child ratio in the nursery?