

database so that details can be updated as soon as we are notified of changes.

When a person requests information, reports are produced based on their individual requirements. Details available include age ranges, opening hours, vacancies, costs and school pick ups. Details of Childcare Services, particularly vacancies, can change quite frequently. While we make every effort to keep our information up to date by regularly contacting providers to ask for updates, childcare providers are responsible for ensuring that the details accurately reflect the service they offer.

We can also supply copies of various leaflets, including a range giving suggestions on what to look for and questions to ask when choosing different types of childcare and information on applying for help with childcare costs.

What other information do you have?

As well as details of more than 300 registered childcare providers we hold information on 60 Parent & Toddler Groups - informal groups of parents and carers who meet together locally with their children on a regular basis.

Enquirers can also access information on:

- *childcare agencies which cover Perth and Kinross, supplying nannies and other care in the child's home*
- *parenting workshops and courses*
- *activities for under fives including exercise classes, play activities etc*
- *support groups*
- *job vacancies and training opportunities related to the childcare sector*

If we don't have the information you are looking for, we will do our best to find someone who does.

How do I get information?

The Childcare Information Service can be contacted by telephone on **0845 601 4477**, or by email to **childcare@perthgrammar.pkc.sch.uk**

Details of Childcare Services can then be provided by phone, post, fax or email as required. If you are in the area you can visit the office in the Community Wing of Perth Grammar School on Bute Drive to pick up information.

Some childcare providers have also chosen to advertise their service via the national website **www.scottishchildcare.gov.uk**

"Internet site very helpful as I could access information when I needed to rather than during office hours."



If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion only, a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting Lesley Gillies on 0845 601 4477.



Council Text Phone Number 01738 442573

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility

Designed by Chief Executive's Service (2006496 - Jan 07)

Childcare Information Service



PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL

Education & Children's Services

"An invaluable service that took much of the pressure off arranging childcare."



0845 601 4477

childcare@perthgrammar.pkc.sch.uk
www.scottishchildcare.gov.uk

Perth & Kinross Childcare Information Service

is here to help, whether you are:

- a first time parent who is planning to return to work
- interested in meeting up with others who have children of a similar age
- looking for full day care, pre-school education or after school care for your child
- planning to move to Perth and Kinross and interested in childcare options in a new area

Choosing childcare and early education is a big step for parents, carers and their children. Without up to date information and advice, it is hard to choose the childcare that will suit you best.

Childcare Information Services were set up across the country as part of the Government's Childcare Strategy to ensure that parents and carers have "ready access to childcare information and guidance which is comprehensive, up to date and user friendly". Information services across Scotland are linked through the national website www.scottishchildcare.gov.uk

"Excellent service provided to busy working parents."



This leaflet is designed to answer some of the questions you may have about the service we offer and includes some comments people have made about the service they received.

What is childcare?

Childcare is about keeping children safe and happy while they have fun and learn through play. Childcare Services also enable parents/carers to go to work, attend training or have some time to themselves.

There is a wide range of childcare services available throughout Perth and Kinross, including:

Nurseries - which allow children, including babies and toddlers, to play, learn and have fun in groups.

Childminders - who provide care, play and learning opportunities for children within a home setting.

Out of School Clubs - which offer a safe place to play for school age children outside of school hours.

Wraparound Care - which provide extended care for three and four year olds before and after pre-school education sessions at some Council nursery schools and classes.

Playgroups - which provide sessions of play and education to children aged between two and five.

Crèches - which offer part time sessions of care, usually run alongside adult activities such as education, leisure and support groups.

"Extremely friendly and helpful as a new mum moving into the area with no support network. Thank you."

What is Pre-school Education?

Pre-school education is an important stage in a child's development and helps children to learn as they play. A good quality pre-school experience builds on the valuable learning that takes place in and around the home, before children start primary school. It also develops essential skills they will rely on in later life. Children are entitled to a part-time pre-school education place in the term after their third birthday. This can be in a nursery class based in a primary school or in a private nursery, playgroup or independent school which is in partnership with Perth & Kinross Council to provide pre-school places. The Information Service can give you details of options in your local area.

"Saved me a lot of legwork, thanks."

How are childcare Services regulated?

All childcare and pre-school education services in Scotland are regulated by the Care Commission. This means that they must meet National Standards before they can open and they are regularly inspected to make sure that they continue to do so. More information on the role of the Care Commission is available on www.carecommission.com or by phoning **01382 207100**.

What does the Information Service do?

The Service offers an opportunity for all types of childcare providers to advertise their services, though they can choose not to participate. The information given is held on a computer