



The Early Years Register (EYR) and the Ofsted Childcare Register (OCR) Frequently asked questions:

You may have heard about 'Ofsted' and 'registered childcare'. This leaflet will try to answer some of the most frequently asked questions around this.

If you have any questions about anything or want to talk to somebody about this please contact York Family Information Service using the contact details at the bottom of this leaflet.

Who are Ofsted?

Some childcare is regulated and inspected by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted). This means that Ofsted have checked that a set of standards have been met and that a childcare provider is suitable to look after children.

Who does Ofsted register?

People who want to provide childcare for children under eight, for more than two hours in any one day, **must** register with Ofsted before they can become childcare providers.

What is the Early Years Register (EYR)?

The **Early Years Register** is for **all** providers working with children aged from **birth to five**. Providers must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which brings together care and learning. Typically this will be full daycare, pre-schools, childminders and some out of school provision (holiday schemes or after school clubs).


Will Schools have to register on the EYR?


No, schools are exempt from registration but they will still need to deliver the EYFS for children up to 31 August following their fifth birthday: generally this will be nursery class to reception class.

But If schools offer care to children under the age of three then they will need to register on the EYR.

What is the Ofsted Childcare Register (OCR)?

The Ofsted Childcare Register (OCR) is not as intensive as the full Early Years Register. The OCR is divided into two parts:

 The **compulsory OCR**: this is childcare for children aged **five to seven**. Typically this will be childminders and out of school providers (unless they are exempt).

 The **voluntary OCR**: this is for providers who are not required to register, but can choose to do so. Typically this will be nannies, activity based settings, short term care and care for children **aged eight and over**.





What should I ask for when considering childcare?

Regardless of how childcare is registered with Ofsted the most important thing is you should be looking to make sure that the provision you choose meets both the needs of you and your child.

The FIS can explain the different types of childcare available and can provide a leaflet which contains tips and questions to ask when visiting a childcare setting. Simply contact the FIS for further information.

When can I use my Tax Credits to pay for childcare?

To receive Tax Credits the provision must be registered with Ofsted under one of the three registers. To check eligibility for Tax Credits contact The Inland Revenue on 0845 3003900.

A handy picture for remembering the different Ofsted Registers

The Early Years Register	The Compulsory Ofsted Register	The Voluntary Ofsted Register
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All providers looking after children aged 0-5 • Must deliver Early Years Foundation Stage • Full inspection and regulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers looking after children aged 5-7. • Some checks are carried out but not as many as for the Early Years Register 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers looking after children aged over 8. • It is voluntary not compulsory • Some checks are carried out but not as many as for the Early Years Register

