



What are the different types of approved child care?

There are several types of approved child care and some families use more than one. Here is a description of each.

Long Day Care

This is provided in day care centres mainly for children up to school age. These centres may also call themselves kindergarten, preschools, child care centres, or early learning centres. They offer fun learning and development in bright, colourful surroundings with lots of toys and play equipment.

It can be all-day or part-time and is provided by private operators, employers, local councils, community organisations, or non-profit organisations.

Family Day Care

This is provided in an approved carer's home, for your children. It stimulates learning and development through arts and crafts, stories, outdoor activities, and games.

The hours of care are flexible and can be matched to your needs. Family Day Care can be all-day, part-time, casual, before and/or after school, and during school holidays.

Outside School Hours Care (before and after school and vacation)

This is provided in places like schools and community halls, mainly for primary school children. It offers supervised activities for different ages, including games, crafts, sport, reading, and music.

Outside School Hours Care is available before and/or after school and during school holidays. It can also be provided on pupil-free days during the school term.

Occasional Care

This is provided in small day care centres for your children. 'Family grouping' is encouraged so siblings are not separated. It stimulates learning and development through activities based on your child's needs and interests.

Occasional Care is flexible and available regularly or as you need it (for example, if you need to attend a doctor's appointment or need time out).

In Home Care

This is care provided by an approved carer in your home, for your children. It offers supervised activities for different ages, including arts and crafts, outdoor activities, and games.

You can use In Home Care if you cannot access an existing child care service or a service that meets your needs (for example, if you live in a rural or regional area, work shifts or non-standard hours, have a child with a disability or who is ill, or have more than two children under school age).

How can I get more information?

For further information on the different types of approved care and reported vacancies please contact the Australian Government Child Care Access Hotline:



call 1800 670 305 (a service is also available if you require information in a language other than English).

If you need to, you can also call:



Teletypewriter (TTY) 1800 639 327 (if you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment).
You need a TTY phone to use this service.