

Home based childcare
A guide to childcare in your own home in Brighton & Hove

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How to contact us

If you are looking for services for families or childcare, visit our website where you can search online www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/fis or follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/BHforFamilies or Facebook www.facebook.com/BHFamilies

Need extra help?

Email familyinfo@brighton-hove.gov.uk
 Telephone **01273 293545**

The Family Information Service is part of Brighton and Hove City Council's Front Door for Families providing support, advice and access to specialist targeted services for parents, carers, young people and professionals. Find out more at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/frontdoorforfamilies

Other information and publications available on our website

- Family breakdown – advice and support when relationships end
- Family Finance – factsheet about financial help available for families
- New to Brighton – introduction to the key resources in the city
- Free childcare for 2 year olds – find out more and apply online
- 15 hours and 30 hours free childcare for three and four year olds
- All about Tax Free Childcare

The Family Information Service cannot accept any responsibility for errors or omissions in this factsheet. All information provided is for guidance only and correct to the best of our knowledge at January 2019.

About this factsheet

There are many reasons why parents might want to use a childcarer who comes to the family home, perhaps:

- You work unusual hours, such as shift working, or evenings and weekends
- You have a young baby or child with special needs and prefer them being at home
- You have several children needing childcare

Types of home based childcare

FIS At Home Childcarer

The Family Information Service (FIS) provides an At Home Childcare Service for parents in Brighton & Hove. You can find details about all of our At Home Childcarers at

www.familyinfobrighton.org.uk

All of our At Home Childcarers are

- Registered with Ofsted
- DBS checked and insured
- Qualified in First Aid

To find out more, see our [Parent's Guide](#)

Nanny

A nanny can be anyone who looks after children in their home, whether live-in or live-out; full-time or part-time and qualified/Ofsted registered or not.

It is important that parents check their suitability for the role if they directly employ the nanny themselves; if not, an agency can do this but they will charge a fee.

[Nanny share](#) – sometimes a family 'share' their nanny with another family; either at opposite ends of the week or by contributing to the nanny's fees together and having their children cared for at the same time.

Au pair

An au pair is a young person who is provided with a place to live within the family home and study time, in return for part-time childcare duties.

Speak to an [agency](#) if you are interested in using an au pair; it often works well for a family with older children, rather than babies and under 5's.

Babysitter

Traditionally a local young person who comes to your home to supervise the evening and bedtime routine and enable parents to leave the home for a few hours.

Some babysitting agencies provide older babysitters and a qualified childcarer could also 'babysit' if available, so there can be a range of options.

Personal Assistant (PA)

A Personal Assistant helps a person or family to maintain their routine, go about daily activities and act as a companion and helper. As with a babysitter, this person is not necessarily qualified in childcare or registered with Ofsted.

To find a Personal Assistant, visit the Possability People website and see their PA noticeboard – see page 5.

There is no source of free home based childcare.

Many parents looking for this, rely on informal offers of childcare from family, friends or neighbours, whom they trust.

For information on sources of financial support and funding, see pages 6-8

Ofsted registration

Ofsted is the government's regulator of schools and childcare. www.gov.uk/ofsted

There are two main benefits of Ofsted registration for parents;

1. **Quality of care** – you can be sure that a childcarer has been police checked and required to complete an application process which usually involves a relevant qualification, first-aid training and holding a public liability insurance policy.
2. **Financial support** – to receive tax credits towards the cost of childcare, and with other government funding, the childcarer must provide parents with their Ofsted registration number.

The Ofsted Voluntary Childcare Register (VCR)

All of the FIS At Home Childcarers are registered on the VCR. Nannies can also register.

You can read the full document of all the [registration requirements that are relevant to childcarers working in the family home](#) and registered under the Voluntary Childcare Register, as well as other official guidance at www.gov.uk/ofsted .

Ofsted contact details:

General enquiries: 0300 123 1231

Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Web: www.gov.uk/ofsted

Where to find a home based childcarer

[Family Service Directory \(FSD\)](#)

- You can search for [Agencies](#) who can provide nannies, au pairs, babysitters
- [FIS At Home Childcarers](#)

Websites

This is a small selection of places you might search for a home childcarer;

www.childcare.co.uk

Search for a home childcarer or post your own request. (Fee may be applicable)

www.gumtree.com/brighton

Narrow your search via area (Brighton/Hove), category (jobs) and type (nanny/babysitter, etc) or post your own request.

local.mumsnet.com/brighton-hove

Search or post your request on Childcare & Education / Childcare

www.netmums.com/brighton

Search or post your request on the noticeboard.

Childcare staff

You can ask at your child's setting, (daycare settings, childminders, out of school clubs and schools) as there are sometimes staff already known to your child, who may be able to provide additional childcare hours.

Building a relationship with a home childcarer – written and practical support

A written agreement is recommended between parents and childcarers and we have prepared a [Parents Guide](#) about our FIS At Home Childcarers, which can also apply to other types of home childcarer.

The Professional Association for Childcarers website, www.pacey.org.uk , also has a useful page for [parents](#).

Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)

Amaze

Amaze is a charity that gives information, advice and support to families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Brighton & Hove and Sussex.

Helpline: 01273 772289

Email: helpline@amazebrighton.org.uk

Website: www.amazesussex.org.uk

Possability People

A charity that works with disabled people, older people and young people, children and their families, or anyone with an impairment or long term health condition.

Main website: www.possabilitypeople.org.uk

They have a noticeboard that advertises Personal Assistants, *(as described on page 3)* : www.panoticeboard.org.uk

SNAP specialist childcare agency

SNAP is a specialist recruitment agency placing support workers, SEN nannies, enablers, PAs, buddies & night carers to support children, teenagers & adults with disabilities or additional needs.

Helpline: 020 7729 2200

Email: info@snapcare.co.uk

Website: www.snapcare.co.uk

Childcare Brokerage, Family Information Service

We can provide support for parents looking for all forms of childcare, including home-based childcare, and direct parents to other sources of information.

We can liaise with our At Home Childcarers on your behalf – call us on 01273 293545 and we will discuss your needs with you.

Our [Local Offer](#) gives you information on the help and support available locally for children and young people aged 0 to 25 with special educational needs and/or a disability (SEND), and their families.

It covers health, education, social care, leisure, preparing for adulthood and more.

Funding and Paying for childcare in your home

You're usually considered the employer of a nanny, housekeeper, gardener or anyone else who works in your home if both:

- you hire them
- they're not self-employed or paid through an agency

The official government website, www.gov.uk can give you lots of useful guidance;

- on [Employing someone to work in your home](#)
- this means [you have certain responsibilities](#), like meeting the employee's rights and deducting the right tax.
- there are special rules for [au pairs](#), who aren't usually considered workers or employees.
- for Childcarer registration information, see www.gov.uk/ofsted
- for payroll guidance, see www.nannytax.co.uk

Self-employed home childcarers

Depending on individual circumstances, some childcarers who work in your home may be self-employed.

For further guidance visit;

www.gov.uk/money/dealing-with-hmrc

- HMRC contact information

Which financial assistance you can use, to help you pay for home based childcare

You CAN use:	You CAN'T use:
	<p>2,3 and 4 year old funded childcare (15 and 30 hours)</p> <p>You cannot use government funded childcare to pay for a home childcarer.</p> <p>www.childcarechoices.gov.uk will give you more information, as well as details of how to apply, if you want to use funded childcare part-time, in a group setting such as a day nursery.</p>
<p>Tax-free childcare (you can't claim this if you are getting Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Childcare Vouchers)</p>	
<p>Childcare Vouchers, provided by employers (now replaced by Tax-free Childcare and closed to new applicants)</p>	
<p>Tax Credits for childcare (you cannot claim tax credits at the same time as Universal Credit or Tax-free childcare)</p>	
<p>Universal Credit (you cannot claim Universal Credit at the same time as tax credits or Tax-free childcare)</p>	
<p>Working Tax Credit (you cannot claim tax credits and Universal Credit at the same time)</p> <p>www.gov.uk/working-tax-credit</p>	
<p>Childcare Grant (for full-time students, whose partner is not in receipt of Working Tax Credit (childcare element), Universal Credit or Tax-Free Childcare)</p> <p>www.gov.uk/childcare-grant</p>	
	<p>Care To Learn (if you are a student under 20)</p> <p>www.gov.uk/care-to-learn</p>
<p>Direct Payments (as a parent with a disability) and Direct Payments for a child with a disability.</p> <p>www.brighton-hove.gov.uk</p>	

Web addresses mentioned in this factsheet

If you have received a paper copy, these are the full addresses of the web links listed in this factsheet:

Brighton & Hove City Council

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/fis

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/frontdoorforfamilies

Family Service Directory (From Family Information Service)

www.familyinfobrighton.org.uk

Central government websites

www.gov.uk/ofsted

www.gov.uk/guidance/childminders-and-childcare-providers-register-with-ofsted

www.gov.uk/employing-staff

www.gov.uk/au-pairs-employment-law/au-pairs

www.gov.uk/money/dealing-with-hmrc

Childcare funding, benefits and applications

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/working-tax-credit

www.gov.uk/childcare-grant/eligibility

www.gov.uk/care-to-learn/eligibility

Advertising for a nanny or childcarer

www.childcare.co.uk

www.gumtree.com/brighton

www.mumsnet.com

www.netmums.com/brighton

Nanny information

www.childcare.co.uk/information/nanny-shares

www.pacey.org.uk/parents/

www.gov.uk/au-pairs-employment-law

www.nannytax.co.uk

Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years

www.pacey.org.uk

Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)

www.amazesussex.org.uk

www.possabilitypeople.org.uk

www.panoticeboard.org.uk

www.snapcare.co.uk

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/social-care/paying-care/direct-payments

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/local-offer