

Choosing the right service for your child

Choosing the right service can be an exciting and sometimes overwhelming time for you and your child. It's important to consider your options early and research the type of early education and care that suits your family best and will provide the best outcomes for your child.

What are my options?

There are many education and care options available to suit the needs of your child and your family:

+ Long Day Care

Long day care is perfect for those who work long days and need care for their children during business hours. It operates for at least 8 hours a day, typically Monday to Friday in a child care centre and caters for children, from birth to school age.

+ Family Day Care

Family day care is great for parents who want their children to learn and play in small groups, in a home-like environment. It caters for children, birth to 12 years and is held in the home of a registered educator.

+ Preschool Services

Preschool usually caters for children aged three to five years and is perfect for parents with children who are almost ready for primary school. Sometimes known as kindergarten, it can be a standalone service or part of another education and care service or school.

+ Outside School Hours Care

Outside school hours care operates before and after school and/or during school holidays. This service works well for parents with school age children, who need care outside of school hours.

These services are not regulated by the National Quality Framework (NQF):

+ Occasional Child Care

Occasional child care works on a casual basis for short periods of time. It caters for children, birth to school age and suits those who would like or need a temporary service.

+ Mobile Services

Mobile services travel through communities to offer occasional, preschool or long day care services in rural, urban and remote areas. It generally caters for children up to six years old, and is great for parents who live too far away from an early education and care service.

+ Other Child Care Options

There is a wide range of other child care options available, including family, friends, babysitters and nannies. These types of services are flexible and rely heavily on the family's needs. They are generally run in a home and operating times may vary.

