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Planning Childcare

Questions to ask childcare providers

General questions:

- Do you have space for my child and from what date?
 How much are your fees and what do they cover?
 What would my child do on a typical day?
 How much time do you spend talking and engaging with the children and how?
 What sort of food and snacks do you provide? How will I be informed?
 Where would my child sleep and can my child sleep when he or she needs to?
 What's your policy on discipline and how do you manage behaviour?
 How do you help children feel settled and deal with anxiety or crying?
 What help are you able to offer when potty-training?
- •How will you 'hand over' at the end of the day?

Nursery Questions - Additional questions:

- •How many members of staff have left in the last year? Reasons?
- •What qualifications does your team hold? Experience?
- •Who would be looking after my child and what experience and qualifications does, he or she have?
- •What's your policy on child illness?
- •What outdoor provision do you have for my child?
- •Do you provide 'live' viewing cams?
- Is there scope for dropping off early or picking up late?
- •Are there additional activities offered and at what cost?
- •How easy is it to get hold of someone during the day if I want to check on my child?
- Is it possible to contact you by email/ text/WhatsApp so that my whole office doesn't hear me calling?What will you do if my child doesn't want to come in?

Nanny (nanny-share) Questions - Additional questions:

- •What experience do you have as a nanny? Have you any qualifications?
- •Why are you leaving your current family?
- •If nannying for more than one child, how do you deal with different ages?
- •How would you deal with 'X' scenario?
- •What are your holiday plans for the year ahead?
- •How long are you happy to commit to us?

Childminder Questions - Additional questions:

- •How many years have you been caring for children and what ages have you looked after?
- •How many children are you registered to care for?
- •How many children do you currently have and what's the gender and age mix?
- •Where do the children play? (e.g. safe, clean playroom and outdoor area)
- •How would you incorporate my child's preferred routine with other children's?
- •What outing, activities and playgroups do you get involved in?
- •Do they watch TV or DVDs?
- •Do you meet with other childminders for trips out?