



OUT OF SCHOOL CARE/ACTIVITIES

OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

Care is provided for school age children outside normal school hours to play, relax and have fun in groups. Schemes can provide care before and after school and all day during school holidays – each scheme tends to be different.

- **Before School Clubs** – are open during term-time and often provide breakfast. They open from about 8am for parents who need to start work before school hours. Some clubs set in nurseries are open from 7am.
- **After School Clubs** – usually open between 3 and 6pm and offer a wide range of activities for children. Some collect children from school and transport them to the Club.
- **Holiday Playschemes** – operate at varying times during the school holidays; some offer optional additional hours at the beginning and end of the day to accommodate the requirements of working parents. Only playschemes for under 8 year olds need to be Ofsted [Office for Standards in Education] registered, however, some providers may choose to be voluntary registered in order for parents to claim help with the cost of childcare through working tax credits.

WHERE DO I FIND OUT ABOUT CHILDCARE NEAR ME?

Information about out-of-school childcare can be found at our online directory:

www.southendinfopoint.org

If you are a parent/carer for whom English is a second language, a parent/carer whose child has additional needs or you are a professional working with parents/carers then the Family Information Service can help provide additional support looking for childcare. Please contact us on 01702 215007 or email fissos@southend.gov.uk

REGISTRATION

Out of school services that cater for children under the age 8 years and are open for more than two hours a day – more than 14 days per year – must be registered with Ofsted [Office for Standards in Education]. The Ofsted regulations will specify the number of children that are allowed on the premises at any time and the ratio of staff to children. The latest inspection reports can be viewed at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

There is no statutory duty for services that solely offer sporting activities to register with Ofsted. This type of provision and those services that cater for children over the age of 8 are able to apply for inclusion on Ofsted's Voluntary Register.

SAFEGUARDING

Most out of school provision is run by experienced staff, some of whom will have formal qualifications in childcare or playwork. However, not all groups, activities and events need to be registered with Ofsted or the council and it is your responsibility to ensure your child's safety at these settings. Ask providers whether they have a DBS Certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service stating any offenses that may affect their role and whether they have attended Safeguarding and First Aid training. You may also wish to view any Safeguarding Policies they have in place. If you have any concerns please contact the Local Safeguarding Children's Board on 01702

215007 or visit www.southend.gov.uk/lscb. The NSPCC website also has lots of useful information and publications associated with safeguarding, visit www.nspcc.org.uk

COST & ALLOCATION OF PLACES

Costs vary depending upon the hours and activities provided. Working parents may be eligible for the childcare element of Tax Credits – but this would only apply when Ofsted registered provision is used.

www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/tax-credits for information about claiming the childcare element of working tax credits.

www.familyandchildcaretrust.org for information about different funding available for childcare.

CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is committed to ensuring that all childcare and early years settings in the Borough provide a service that includes all children and support is available to achieve this.

ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- Will your child be able to cope in a large group at the end of their school day? Or, perhaps a childminder would be a better option for them.
- Will your child have space and quiet to complete any homework he / she needs to do?
- Are you happy with the transfer arrangements between your child's school and the out of school setting?
- Some holiday playschemes are very popular and you may need to book your child's place well in advance.
- Would your child enjoy the structure of a holiday playscheme?
- Always check the registration status of provision you choose for your child and, where applicable, ask to see their Ofsted registration certificate.

WHAT'S ON DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Details of leisure activities and playschemes that are being offered for families, children and young people can be found at www.southendinfopoint.org

For local events, attractions, parks and beaches you may also wish to visit www.visitsouthend.co.uk

CONTACT THE FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE

01702 215007 | fissos@southend.gov.uk | www.southendinfopoint.org

Southend-on-Sea Family Information Service cannot recommend or endorse any childcare providers and does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of this information. Updated March 2016

