



12 Points to consider when choosing the perfect nursery

THE DOLPHIN PRE SCHOOL AND NURSERY

- | | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Rated ' Good ' or ' outstanding ' by Ofsted in all areas? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | Founded and operated by parents who understand how precious these years are? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Locally sourced home cooked food , freshly cooked daily on site? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Dedicated , friendly , and knowledgeable team who show an interest in you and your family? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | Strong communication with you as a family? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | Flexible hours – can you book and pay for the hours that you need? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 | Play rooms covered by CCTV ? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 | Good location for access to local parks and beach ? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 | A wide range of indoor and outdoor play facilities appropriate for different age children? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 | Range of testimonials available to read from other parents using the setting? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 | Links with the local community ? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 | ' Open door policy ' allowing a show around at your convenience? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please turn over to check out some of the questions you should be asking...





A few questions you should be considering

Ask to see their Ofsted report.

Ensure they are registered with Ofsted and do not accept anything less than **'Good' or 'Outstanding'** you can check their Ofsted report online by visiting:
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Do the children look happy and engaged?

Are the children happy? Look out for signs that they are enjoying their time at nursery. Remember the adults are there to facilitate play, model language and promote good manners. You should also witness fun activities taking place on a daily basis. Ask questions about their daily routine and what they have planned for the children's week ahead.

Do they offer a wide range of inside and outside play facilities appropriate for all ages?

Are the activities fun and exciting and challenging each child developmentally? Are they varied and do they cover things like messy, role, sensory, and physical play (both inside and out), offer adult led play and most importantly child led play? Is there a fun exciting outside play area ready to explore in all weather conditions? Do they go out in all weather? Do they have an adverse weather policy, and what happens in the event of snow etc? Are their rooms light and airy with plenty of room to move around? Are their age related rooms or are the ages mixed?

The nursery should be following the EYFS (early year's foundation stage) and all staff members should have thorough knowledge of this. Ask them how their activities link to their planning and the child's development.

Remember you know best.

Your senses as parents are vital when assessing the quality of a nursery. Do you get a good feel of the nursery? Is there an aroma of home cooking in the air? After all your child is the most precious gift you have in the world and you need to ensure you feel comfortable and know your child is safe and will feel loved. Take a good look around the premises are they clean? Do children look happy and settled? Do staff members appear professional in their approach. You will instantly know when you have got the right one.

What are the staff like?

Ask them about their safer recruitment policy and how they go about finding the perfect staff for their nursery. Engage in conversations with the team, also ask them questions about the nursery and their role. Don't just take the manager's word for it. This should provide you with confidence that they work well as a team and are supportive of each other. Ask about staff training, when and how often this takes place and what kind of thing this covers. Ask about their background, how did they come into childcare? But most of all you can see when staff are happy and settled within a work place, the smile and warm welcome should override words.

Is the nursery good at communication?

Does the nursery use a variety of ways to communicate with you as a family, starting with a thorough handover at the end of the day? How do they inform you on events and updates? Do they hold parents' evenings to discuss your child's progress and their next steps? Do they have an engaging social media page to show what happens within their nursery? Ask to take a look at the different types of contact they have with you. These should be readily available.

Do they have strong links with the local community?

Contact the local early years support team and find out if the nursery engages with them regularly. As well as their links with the local authority do they work closely with the health team, children's centres, primary schools, and other local settings? Do they invite people to support the curriculum e.g. sports clubs, animal encounters? Do they work with other local businesses, e.g. links with nursing homes. A nursery that engages with the local community tends to be more outward looking and better at developing children's understanding of the world.



Why not pop in for a chat and a tour of our nursery and see what we have to offer. We are always available for any questions you may have

info@dolphinnursery.co.uk - Phone 01395 272418