

Nursery - making the right choice

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If you have a child approaching Nursery age, (*born between 1st Sept 2012 and 31st August 2013*) you may be thinking about applying for a Nursery place for your child around now. (*E.g. Hertfordshire applications are open between 9th February and 18th March 2016*) If you are still undecided as to which Nursery setting to choose, here are a few things to consider:

- Visit as many nursery settings as possible so that you can talk to staff and observe the children. There is a big choice and a range of options, so it's worth taking time to look around.
- It may be important to you that there is a school attached to the nursery, to ease transition to the next stage of education.
- Does the nursery offer a personalised provision for your child, with adult to child ratios that allow the team to respond to your child as an individual?
- Is it a vibrant environment? Do the children look busy, purposeful, happy and relaxed in the setting? Do they seem safe to explore and investigate?
- Does the Nursery work in partnership with you as a parent? Are you included in the learning journey and how often are you involved?
- Does the setting offer flexibility for you to buy nursery sessions in addition to the 15 hours that are funded? This can vary between nursery settings. Grove Road in Tring for example, offers additional sessions and lunch club provision across the week, with the option of providing the children with a hot lunch cooked on site.
- If your child was born between 1st April and 31st August you can now choose to delay the start of school. How the nursery /school setting responds to this may be a question you would like to ask.

Sometimes the choice you make can come down to a 'gut feel' or personal choice, so visiting all the local nurseries can really help inform your choice. Visits to local establishments are generally welcomed. Local nurseries include:

- Windmill pre-school, Pitstone
- Marsworth pre-school
- Cheddington pre-school
- Grove Road nursery, Tring
- ABC nursery, Tring
- Stepping Stones pre-school, Tring
- Dundale nursery, Tring