

3. Ofsted Registered Childcare

There are two parts to the Ofsted Childcare Register:

1) Ofsted Compulsory Childcare Register

Those who provide childcare for children aged under 8 years, for more than two hours at a time, and for more than six times a year, have to register with **Ofsted** by law.

These childcare providers have to meet national standards and help children to meet the five outcomes in '**Every Child Matters**', which are:

- Being happy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution; and
- Achieving economic well being

2) Ofsted Voluntary Childcare Register

Most childcare providers have to register with Ofsted by law under the Compulsory Childcare Register. Childcarers who do not have to register by law can choose to register under the Voluntary Childcare Register. This allows eligible parents to claim tax credits to help with the cost of care. Types of childcarers who can register include:

- those providing care for children aged over 7, such as out-of-school clubs and play centres;
- activity based care (sports, drama or art clubs); and
- care provided in the child's own home such as nannies, au pairs or home based care for disabled children.