Transcript-Choosing childcare

I don't think its easy to find the right childcare for children, and as an inspector one of my roles is to ensure that the service is providing safe care for children.

Finding the right childcare provider can be, it's not easy.

The first thing I would suggest people do is to have a look at the website. Check to see if the service is already registered with us. You can download the report and that will give you lots of very useful information.

If you're looking for childminders, we don't publish their report on our website but they are available to you if you contact the local office and you can do that by telephoning us or emailing us and then we'll send it out to you.

The reports will tell you how many children are looked after at the service. They will tell you what kind of care they provide, they'll provide you with information about when they are open, about availability.

When I am looking at nurseries, creche and out of school clubs, I would look to see whether the environment was clean and the staff where welcoming. I would look at the qualifications of the staff. I'd ensure that there was an out door area, so that the children can go in and out as they wish.

I would suggest that you visit a number of services and perhaps go at different times of the day. Perhaps of and visit a morning session and see what activities are offered and go later in the afternoon and see what happens in the afternoon. So that you have an all round idea about what is actually provided.

When choosing childminder I'd suggest that you go to the home, look at the cleanliness , I'd ask questions such as what food do they provide? Because some childminders don't provide food and will only provide snacks.

How friendly are they? Do they greet you and your child? Do they make you feel comfortable and at home? What qualifications and experience do they have? It's important to know that they have the right experience and right qualifications. I would also speak to other parents who also use the service, just try and see what they think, to get some information from other people.