The Ultimate Guide to Childcare

Provided by AuPairCare
Live-in Childcare
Secrets to hiring the best childcare provider

Have you thought about these 5 important attributes of your childcare candidate?

✔ Experience, screening and training

What education, training and experience does the childcare provider have? Are they trained in CPR and first aid? Do they have a clean criminal and driving record? Are they authorized to work in the U.S.? Can they provide at least three references? Do they have travel/accident insurance?

✔ Cost

Does the candidate charge per child or one flat rate per family? Are there any extra fees involved or overtime rates?

✔ Hours and schedule flexibility

How many hours of childcare do you need per week? Do you have a consistent work schedule or does it vary from week to week? Do you frequently require overnight childcare?

✔ Responsibilities

Can the candidate help with preparing your child’s meals and doing their laundry? Can they drive your child to and from school and other activities?

✔ Location

Do you have a preference whether your caregiver lives in your home? Do you want your children to be cared for in your home or at an outside facility?

Helpful Tips

During your interview, ask what they would do if your child became sick or had an accident.

If you run a background check, make sure to get the candidate’s permission to do so in writing.

Find out if the candidate has other work or personal commitments that may interfere with your childcare schedule. What other obstacles, such as their daily commute, may create challenges?

If you need a childcare provider who drives, go for a test drive to gauge their ability.
Which type of childcare is right for your family?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compare these childcare options:</th>
<th>Au Pairs</th>
<th>Daycares</th>
<th>Nannies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location In-Home</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location Out-of-Home</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attentive, Personalized Care</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low caregiver to child ratio and up to two years of consistent childcare</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cost</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed cost regardless of number of children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Flexibility of Schedule</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can work 45 hours per week, based on parent’s schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Training</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare provider is trained in CPR, first aid and child development</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Supporting Staff</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, helpful representative in your community and 24/7 emergency support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Screening and Security</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thorough screenings, interviews and background checks are done for you</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regulated</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follows a strict set of guidelines set by the U.S. Department of State</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural Experience / Second Language</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides a cultural learning experience for your family</td>
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</table>
Interviewing your potential childcare provider is one of the most important steps in the selection process. The interview is an opportunity to not only learn about your candidate’s skills but also how their personality will fit with your family.

**1. What do you enjoy most about caring for children?**
This question will demonstrate the caregiver’s reasons concerning why they chose to be a childcare provider.

**2. How do you react when a child misbehaves or doesn’t do what you ask?**
Disciplinary styles can vary widely from person to person so it’s very important to know how your potential caregiver may approach difficult situations.

**3. How would you approach us if there were problems or issues while looking after our children?**
This question will reveal how potential conflicts may be solved in the future.

**4. How do you like to spend your free time?**
While this question seems lighthearted, it can actually reveal if your caregiver is introverted or extroverted and how they may fit in with your family.

**5. How do you think your day will be like with the children and what will you do with them?**
Find out how your kids could be spending the day if you select this candidate.

Using these 5 questions will get you well on your way to finding the perfect caregiver. Happy interviewing!
Au pairs by the numbers

What skills are you looking for in a childcare provider?

Hiring an au pair can offer significant cost savings. With an affordable hourly rate ($7.75/hour vs. $15 or more for a domestic nanny), extensive childcare experience and training, an au pair is the perfect childcare solution.

- **97%** Have a driver’s license.
- **77%** Have either started or graduated with an advanced degree.
- **90%** Have cooking skills. Many prepare meals for their own family on a daily basis.
- **83%** Are intermediate to advanced swimmers.
- **100%** Speak conversational English and are eager to teach their own language to your family.
- **83%** Have art skills which they are ready to share with your children.
- **70%** Have a teaching degree or experience such as working at a daycare or as a tutor.
- **53%** Have trained as a nurse or in first aid prior to attending training at Au Pair Academy.

AuPairCare finds the best au pairs from around the world. All au pairs pass the following screening requirements:

- Evidence the au pair has successfully passed a criminal background check
- Two childcare references verified by an AuPairCare representative
- One personal reference verified by an AuPairCare representative
- Medical history verified by the au pair’s physician

Data taken from the AuPairCare au pair database in March, 2014.
Au pairs are a great way to expose your children to new languages and cultures.

Many host families want their children to be bilingual and constant exposure and reinforcement is the best way to really immerse your children in a new language. Numerous experts believe that introducing children to a second language as early as possible fosters healthy brain development, encourages positive social skills, and lays a solid foundation for effective communication skills that will last a lifetime. Au pairs are great language tutors since they are with your children on a daily basis and can reinforce learnings to help your children speak a new language.

Why Learn Languages at a Young Age?
AuPairCare parents realize that teaching a second language to their kids helps enhance their cognitive development, resulting in better grades and higher test scores later in life. Children who have studied foreign languages tend to score higher on standardized tests, including both verbal and math portions of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Au pairs love to watch their host children grow and develop and they enjoy sharing their language and culture with others. Many au pairs utilize books, songs and games in helping to tutor their host children in learning a new language.

Learning a Language is a Lifelong Endeavor
Children who are exposed to second languages at an early age are most likely to gain benefits ranging from cross-functional cognitive development to accent-free pronunciation. And learners who start early and stick with language acquisition throughout their lives through classes, interaction with native speakers at home and travel to other countries are sure to achieve fluency and to reap its many rewards.

“Babies can learn two languages as fast as one. It is remarkable that babies being raised bilingual — by simply speaking to them in two languages — can learn both in the time it takes most babies to learn one.”

2009 The Associated Press