



June 2014

'Childcare & Family Support NI' App

As part of Bright Start, the Executive's Strategy for Affordable and Integrated Childcare, the Health and Social Care Board, in partnership with the DHSSPS, has developed a **FREE childcare and family support App**.

This app allows people to search for registered and approved **childcare provision**, and **family support services** throughout Northern Ireland on their smartphone.

The aim of the childcare search on the app is to make it easier for parents to identify childcare that meets their individual requirements. The FSNI team receive monthly updates from Early Years Teams in the Trusts about changes to early year's provision within each area to ensure that all childcare providers listed on this app are registered or approved by Health and Social Care Trusts.

In addition, a number of new search fields have been introduced to allow parents to narrow down their search to childcare that is most able to meet their needs. The information in these fields can be provided by childcare providers, Trusts or the Child Care Partnerships. These new fields are:

- vacancies;
- experience of working with children with a disability;
- school pick up/drop off service;
- accept childcare vouchers;
- flexible working hours; or
- pre-school funded places.

The app also allows people to search FSNI's comprehensive database of family support services across Northern Ireland. A number of recent amendments have been made to the family support search, including the introduction of new sections for mental health services and autism.

This makes the app a very useful tool for parents, family support practitioners, social workers, GPs and other professionals who may need to identify services in their locality. Both searches allow users to narrow their search by District Council Area, by Postcode or by GPS location.

The app can be accessed by searching for 'Childcare & Family Support NI' on App store or Google Play or use the links below :

Apple: <http://itunes.apple.com/app/childcare-family-support-ni/id858506900?uo=5>

Android <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.origin.fsni>

Information for this app is sourced from the Family Support NI website www.familysupportni.gov.uk which is a central government resource of information on family support and childcare providers throughout N Ireland. This website provides details of childcare provision and related financial support. The benefits of registered childcare, information about working tax credit and information about childcare vouchers are also promoted through the website.

If you have any queries, please contact the Family Support NI Website Team at 0845 600 6483

Yours sincerely

Family Support Website Team

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For further information contact:

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