

How to choose the best childcare option for your family

As a parent, making the right childcare decision for your family is essential. From cost, to the support your little ones are getting and from who—it can be overwhelming to navigate. But Maven is here to help. Read on to learn about your options for childcare.



• Daycare

Daycare provides a space for your child to learn outside the home, exposing them to other kids and educational activities. Trade-offs may include limited individual attention and a higher likelihood of catching contagious illnesses through exposure to the daycare environment.

• Au pair

An au pair is a young adult from another country who lives with your family on a legal visa for up to two years. They provide childcare in exchange for the opportunity to live in another country, a weekly stipend, and room and board.

• Relatives

Relying on relatives can be comforting, cost-effective, and convenient. But different parenting philosophies and boundaries can cause tension—relatives also may have their own commitments that limit their ability to provide consistent childcare. Some families choose to supplement other childcare options—like a nanny or daycare—with care from relatives a few days a week.

• Nanny

Hiring a nanny ensures childcare is tailored to your family and more flexibility in scheduling. Nannies can give your child one-on-one attention and cater activities to their specific needs. However, this approach can cost more and may lack opportunities for socialization.

• Nanny share

A nanny share is when two or more families collectively employ a nanny to look after their children. Nanny shares are usually cheaper than getting a personal nanny, but coordinating with another family can be complicated.

When weighing your options, think about:

- Your child's age, personality, and developmental stage
- Your and your partner's work schedule
- Your budget
- Safety and regulations
- Socialization