

Day-care Centres

- Day care centres are institutions for the care of healthy children who cannot be looked after in their own homes for several hours of the day

Types of Day-care Centres

- Day Nurseries – They provide care for children as a substitute for the care they would otherwise receive at home.
- Nursery Schools – These provide educational experience for children below school age
- Playgroups – These provide young children with opportunities for play and to mix with other children.
- Workplace nurseries – These provide care for the children of an employees' workforce
- Family day care also called child minders. These are private establishments run by individuals from their own homes.

Play groups and Nursery Schools



Play group in a slum in
Recife, Brazil



Nursery School, rural India

Special Needs for day care

■ Social

1. Maternal ill health or chronic depression
2. Poor home environment

■ Economic

1. Single-parent families
2. Working mother

■ Medical

1. Education of mothers
2. Skills training
3. Mother craft training

■ Developmental

1. Stimulation through play

Activities in day-care centres

- Custodial care
 - Safety from accidents bites and stings and other injuries
- Feeding
 - Especially in poor urban or rural neighbourhoods
- Play
- Socializing

Health hazards

- Illnesses which may affect other children attending the centre, the staff and families e.g. diarrhoea and respiratory infection
- Illnesses primarily affecting children in the centre and occasionally day-care staff e.g. H. influenzae type B, otitis media etc.
- Illnesses not apparent in children but apparent in adult contacts with major clinical disease e.g. Hepatitis A.
- Illnesses either apparent or mild in children attending the centre but serious for pregnant women contacts e.g. rubella or CMV