

Facilities for children from three months to 3 years of age.

These can be of various kinds:

Crèches: for children from 3 to 36 months, providing canteen and rest facilities.

Spazi bambini. (literally, “Spaces for children”): children are accepted from 12 to 36 months, for a maximum of five hours a day, but no provision is made for canteen facilities or specific places for the children to rest.

Sezioni primavera (literally, “spring sections”): crèche sections that are joined to infants' schools or to other educational or school services, which receive children from 24 to 36 months.

Experimental services:

Family educators: these are provided in agreement with families with children under 3 years of age who agree to make their home available, or else another adequate space; the number of children must not exceed three.

Domiciliary educators: they carry out their activity in a dedicated space within their own home or in another place; the children must be under 3 years of age and must not exceed five in number.

Recreational services*

These are of a purely recreational nature, designed for children under the age of 3 who use them occasionally; they are subject only to the prevailing regulations regarding safety and health. They do not provide for a continuous service for receiving children.

The recreational facilities are for a maximum of two days per week and a daily attendance of no longer than three hours, except on the occasion of holidays in tourist locations, where daily attendance may be provided for, albeit limited in time.

The recreational services are not permitted to provide canteen facilities.

Centres for children and parents

These accept children together with their parents or accompanying adults; they do not include canteen facilities or specific rest rooms.

Managers of these services

These services may be run by local councils or by private subjects.

The services that are directly managed by the local councils, run by agreed bodies or sub-contracted, refer to the councils for enrolment and payment.

Private services are autonomous with regard to enrolment and to establishing payment rates.

Who to refer to for enrolment

For the services managed by the councils, either directly or indirectly, you should refer to the council offices; for the private, non-council services, you should go to the place where the services are offered.

When

Usually, the councils receives enrolments several months prior to the start of the school term (e.g., in January 09 for the year 2009/2010); **there is no single date for the entire province.**

Infants' schools for children from 3 to 6 years of age

The infants' school is meant for all children between three and five years of age. It has a three-year duration and is not obligatory.

There are state, council (run directly or indirectly by the local councils) and private infants' schools.

Where to go to enrol

This depends on the type of school:

State infants' school: directly to the principal's office of the school.

Council infants' schools: to the relevant council offices.
Private infants' schools: to the school itself.

When

Usually the schools receive enrolments several months before the beginning of the school term (e.g., in January 09 for the year 2009/2010); however, the exact dates are fixed each year by the competent Ministry.