

A Mom-Tastic Resource
 Provided by The Business of Motherhood
 www.BusinessofMotherhood.com

DAYCARE OPTIONS				
Choices - >	Au Pair	Daycare Center	Live-In Nanny	Live-Out Nanny
Cost	Tends to have a large up-front fee and a very reasonable weekly fee (\$140-\$200 depending on service)	Varies greatly by state - probably less than home care, but not as personal to your home needs.	Varies greatly by state - definitely less than a live-out nanny, but you're adding the cost of boarding, food & living expenses.	Varies greatly by state - I've heard rates from \$8-\$20 per hour.
Major Advantages	Can't help with housework, which is key when kids are little and nap often. Typically will help keep kids' clothes & areas clean/tidy. Cultural exchange - exposes your kids to another culture.	Adds benefit of socialization with other kids. Introduces kids to the concept of following a "teacher's" rules early on. Confined - you're not worried about kids crossing the street alone.	Very flexible - typically allows you on-demand help without having to set a specific schedule. You don't have to worry about traffic or weather issues - she's already "at work" in the morning! Can include house cleaning & laundry & cooking which are very helpful.	Privacy at night. Usually has set hours. Possibility to attract more of a "career" nanny who doesn't need housing, etc. More likely to find a driver interested in live-out work. Can include house cleaning & laundry & cooking which are very helpful.
Major Disadvantages	Tends to be shorter term - young au pairs who are here for a cultural exchange typically serve a 1- or maybe 2-year commitment. May not be able to meet your au pair in advance. Cultural differences may require more training on your part.	Kids tend to get exposed to more germs & can get sick more easily. Zero chance of getting laundry or house cleaning done during the shift - you'd need someone at your house!	Privacy - Someone is always in your home.	Traffic or weather issues prevent her from arriving on time.