

While it's true some nursery schools offer afternoon care as late as 5pm, it's not always easy for working mothers in Abu Dhabi to find ways to keep their children looked after. Here are a few childcare options we've uncovered for working mums (and dads!).



Choose your job wisely

There are lots of opportunities for mums to work with one of the many schools in town, as Cindy Padgett, freelance saleslady and school registrar explains, "By working at the school, I was able to get the same holidays and daily timetable as Tyler, even though I'm a fraud investigator by trade."

Flexi time

If you have a skill your employer values, they might be willing to let you work from home, at least part of the time. "I have three children and a 40-hour a week job, but I'm able to work flexi time," says Rebecca Fahmy. "I'm in the office from 8am to 3pm and then I work from home every night."

Extra hands and wheels

Perhaps the easiest option is to employ a full-time nanny you can rely on to be there regardless of school holidays, sickness and random teacher in-service days. You'll have to arrange transportation, but if your nanny can't fetch your children by taxi, most schools provide a bus service or you may be able to arrange for a friend to bring your children home.

Part-time help

If you don't need a full-time nanny, you might be able to hire someone on a part-time basis for the afternoons or during school holidays. Teaching assistants also sometimes pick up extra work during holidays.

Swap with a friend

"On the afternoons when I have to work late, I trade babysitting with my friend," says teacher Jake Hamood. "I wouldn't do it if I couldn't reciprocate, but she works in the evenings, so some days I'll pick up both her son and mine, and other days she picks up both of the boys – that way, childcare is covered and the children get to play together."

Abu Dhabi Film Festival Family Day



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