

London childcare providers survey 2010

London childcare providers network - the voice of London childcare

Daycare Trust is the national childcare charity, campaigning for quality, accessible, affordable childcare for all who need it.

WE NEED YOUR VIEWS!

The London childcare providers network project works with childcare providers to share best practice and influence policy, to benefit families. Last year we organised our first ever London childcare providers survey, and it is thanks to the amazing 363 of you who responded, that we were able to highlight some of your top issues to London decision-makers and the Department of Children, Schools and Families.

Being local and national election year, 2010 brings both excellent opportunities to influence, but also potential policy and budget changes that could have a significant impact on the London childcare sector.

So this year more than ever, we need as many of you as possible to share your views and suggestions. The results will be presented at our annual London childcare providers forum on 6 July 2010.

All individual responses will remain confidential. If you fill in your contact details in the last section, we will make sure you are sent the survey results.

ANSWERING JUST THE KEY FOUR REQUIRED QUESTIONS WILL ONLY TAKE A FEW MINUTES - IF YOU CAN ANSWER MORE QUESTIONS ALL THE BETTER!

Please complete by Tuesday 8 June 2010.

Thank you

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This project is funded by London Councils, and supported by Pre-school Learning Alliance, 4Children, National Childminding Association, National Day Nurseries Association, London Early Years Foundation, Family & Parenting Institute, Children's Workforce Development Council, Department for Children, Schools & Families, Government Office for London, Greater London Authority, London Development Agency and a number of local authorities.

* Questions with an asterisk require answers.

About you

* 1. What kind of childcare provider are you? (please tick)

- Full day care (private)
- Full day care (voluntary)
- Full day care (social enterprise)
- Full day care (independent)
- Full day care (maintained)
- Sessional
- Creche
- Childminder
- Nursery school (private)
- Nursery school (voluntary)
- Nursery school (independent)
- Nursery school (maintained)
- Primary school with nursery and/or reception
- After school and/or breakfast club
- Holiday club
- Other (please specify)

2. Do you provide childcare within a Children's Centre?

Yes

No

* 3. Which London borough do you work in? (please click on drop-down list)

* 4. How many total full-time equivalent registered places are in your setting(s)? (please tick)

0-24 children

25-49 children

50-99 children

100+

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5. How many settings do you run in London? (please click on drop-down list)

6. Which provider network are you a member of, if any? (please tick all that apply)

National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA)

Pre-school Learning Alliance

4Children

National Childminding Association (NCMA)

Local childminding association

Other voluntary sector networks

Local authority networks

None

Other (please specify)

Your views

7. * What are the top 5 issues currently facing you as a provider? (please tick up to 5)

- Improving outdoor play
- Engaging with parents
- Outreach work
- Encouraging take-up of childcare by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BME) families
- Supporting children with disabilities and special educational needs (SEN)
- Working in partnership with local authorities
- Understanding tax credits and other help with costs, for parents
- Training
- Improving quality
- Ofsted inspections
- Balance of local authority funding between private, voluntary, independent and maintained sectors
- Local authority cuts
- Sustainability of your setting
- Impact of the recession
- Rising rents
- Staff recruitment, pay and retention
- Implementing the extended schools and 'safe place to be' initiative
- Implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- Implementing the flexible 15 hours free entitlement for 3 & 4-year-olds
- Level of free entitlement funding (Early Years Single Funding Formula)
- Implementing the free entitlement for eligible 2-year-olds

Other (please specify)

8. Any comments relating to the question above?

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9. What impact has the recession had on you? (please tick all that apply)

- Increased demand for places
- Decreased demand for places
- Easier to recruit staff
- Harder to recruit staff
- Increased fee arrears
- Increased running costs
- Harder to maintain quality of childcare
- No impact

Other (please specify)

10. If rising rent is an issue for you, who is your landlord? (please tick)

- Local authority
- Private
- Church/diocesan
- Other (please specify below)
- Not an issue

Comments (the size of the rent increase, etc)

11. If staffing is an issue for you, which of the following is causing you the most concern? (please tick)

- New Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's workforce
- Training
- Staff recruitment
- Staff retention
- Paying staff salaries
- Not an issue

Other (please specify)

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12. If sustainability is an issue for you, what is putting most financial strain on your service? (please tick)

- Impact of the recession
- Rising rents
- Local authority cuts
- Lack of business/management knowledge
- Level of free entitlement funding
- Families not being able to access help with childcare costs
- Not an issue

Other (please specify)

13. If implementing the free entitlement is an issue for you, what aspect of this is proving the most challenging? (please tick)

- Level of funding
- Implementing the flexible free 15 hours entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds
- Implementing the free entitlement for eligible 2 year olds
- Not an issue

Other (please specify)

14. What impact do you feel the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has had on childcare in general?

- Positive impact
- No impact
- Negative impact

15. If you have had problems implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), what have these been? (please tick all that apply)

- Lack of equipment
- Training
- Lack of support
- Lack of time
- Not an issue

Other (please specify)

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16. One of the gaps often identified by parents is for childcare outside normal working hours (i.e. before 8am, after 6pm and weekends). What ideas do you have on how this may be addressed in your borough?

Working together in the future

17. What helps you link with other providers and share best practice, at a borough level? (please tick all that apply)

- Borough provider network meetings
- Borough provider network newsletters
- Voluntary sector networks
- Exchange visits with other providers
- Joint training opportunities
- Mentors advising in the workplace
- Help with paying for cover when participating in networking and training activities
- Drop-in sessions and playgroups where providers meet
- Email forums/websites/information sent by SMS
- Other (please specify)

18. How do you view your communications with your local authority? (please tick)

- Very good
- Good
- Mixed
- Poor
- Very poor

19. What support would you like from your local Children's Centre?

20. Is there anything else you would like to add, on how to help providers link more with each other, and engage with policy-making?

21. What is the most important thing local councillors could do for childcare in your borough?

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22. What is the most important thing any government could do for childcare?

23. Please describe a success story that you have had.

24. Any other comments?

Your details

25. Your details (all personal data will remain confidential)

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Organisation (if applicable):	<input type="text"/>
Job title:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>
Address 2:	<input type="text"/>
City/Town:	<input type="text"/>
Borough:	<input type="text"/>
Postcode:	<input type="text"/>
Email:	<input type="text"/>
Telephone:	<input type="text"/>

26. Future contact

The above details are to enable us to send you the survey results, and for the internal database of Daycare Trust. We may occasionally send you information on our events and services. Please tick here if you do not wish to be contacted.

27. Membership of Daycare Trust

Please tick here if you would like to be sent information about becoming a member of Daycare Trust.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS SURVEY

The results will be launched at our London childcare providers forum on Tuesday 6 July. This is a free event and will provide an opportunity for you to meet peers from settings across London, and discuss issues of common concern. There will be a chance to put your points to leading decision-makers from London's childcare sector.

To ensure that you receive information on this event, please email Deborah Brodie on dbrodie@daycaretrust.org.uk

