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Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021

Technical report

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1. Introduction

The Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP) is important for monitoring and evaluating childcare and early years provision. Covering group-based providers (private, voluntary and school/college/LA/other unclassified¹), school-based providers (those offering nursery provision and maintained nursery schools) and childminders, it provides a representative snapshot of early years provision in England. It helps the Government, including the Department for Education (DfE), understand the issues that providers face, informing development of early years and childcare policy.

The DfE commissioned the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and Frontier Economics to conduct SCEYP 2021. The programme of research entailed two surveys. The main SCEYP 2021 entailed a large mixed-mode survey, which could be completed either online or on the telephone. It collected data on a variety of topics such as staff-to-child ratios, delivery of Government policies including funded entitlements and Tax-Free Childcare (TFC), children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), staff qualifications and pay, and the financial side of providing childcare such as costs, incomes and fees. There were also a number of core questions such as the number of children registered at the setting. The short SCEYP was delivered online and on paper, and included questions on fees and Government funding received, as well as a small number of core questions, such as the number of children registered at the setting. The purpose of this short survey was to provide robust fee and funding estimates at a local authority (LA) level by aggregating data collected across this and the main SCEYP.

Earlier waves of SCEYP were commissioned by the DfE and its predecessor departments and were conducted by telephone until 2018 and then as a web-telephone survey from 2019 onwards. The survey began in 1998 and was repeated in 2001, 2003, annually from 2005 to 2011, 2013, 2016, 2018 and 2019. The 2020 survey was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.1 The SCEYP timeseries

SCEYP has undergone some changes in scope and design which mean that comparisons between different survey years should be approached with caution.

¹ All group-based providers that are not voluntary or private have been recorded in this third category, of which most are either school run, college run or local authority run group-based providers. Although this category is included in the group-based provider total, it is not reported on in the official statistics publication.

The questionnaire was fully redesigned in 2016 to reflect changes in the childcare market. These changes to the design meant that the 2016 data is not directly comparable with previous years of the survey; the 2016 data was intended to provide a new and enhanced baseline. There were some changes to the 2018 survey to improve the quality of data and to reflect new policy priorities, but otherwise it was designed to be comparable with the 2016 survey.

From 2019, and following a user consultation on the frequency, sampling approach, mode and topic coverage of the SCEYP², DfE decided to intensify the early years focus of the survey by sampling and recruiting only providers for pre-school children aged 0-4 years. Previous surveys had included reception provision as well as wraparound and holiday care for school-aged children aged up to seven. This means that figures published before and after 2019 are not comparable for “all school-based providers” and “all providers”. Any trend analysis within publications will have made adjustments to ensure figures from different years are comparable.

The 2019 survey also introduced a web-first mixed-mode approach for the main survey with web completions encouraged prior to follow up by a telephone interviewer. This approach was again followed in 2021. The move to online data collection, which was introduced following an experiment in 2018, is not thought to have had an impact on the majority of the data collected. However, it appears that confusion among web respondents on how to provide information on staff qualifications may have led to some providers double-counting members of staff against different qualification levels in 2019. This necessitated the exclusion of some cases from staff-level analysis on the grounds of data quality (see Section 7 on weighting for more details). The web questionnaire was redesigned for 2021 to minimise these mode effects.

The SCEYP sample includes some providers registered as early years providers but not currently looking after any children aged 0 to 4. In 2021 these providers, who can be identified via the variable flag04 in the final datasets, were excluded from all analysis reported in the DfE publications.

1.1 The impact of COVID-19

Fieldwork for the 2021 survey took place between March and July 2021 when early years’ settings were still experiencing some disruption as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic which began in early 2020. Although the majority of settings will have been open and operating as usual by March 2021 (following a period of enforced restrictions

² Department for Education (2018) [Surveys on childcare and early years in England: Government consultation response](#) London: DfE

between March and June 2020), settings' operations may still have been affected. Settings may have been experiencing temporary closure as a result of COVID-19 infection, had children or staff members who were having to self-isolate as a result of infection or being a close contact of someone who was infected or had members of staff on furlough as part of the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme which ran until 30th September 2021.

To try to obtain as accurate a picture as possible of available childcare provision in 2021, providers were invited to complete the survey if they had been open and offering relevant childcare in the last 30 days, even if their setting was temporarily closed at the time of interview. Settings that were open were asked to think about their current situation (recognising that this may be different from usual or have changed over recent months) whilst settings temporarily closed at the time of interview were asked to answer with reference to the last term-time day on which they were open.

Table 1 shows that a minority of settings who responded to the main survey reported temporary closure, restricted opening or children or staff self-isolating at the time of the survey.

Table 1 Settings impacted by COVID-19 related issues at time of survey, by provider type

Survey metric	School-based providers	Group-based providers	Childminders
Total number of temporarily closed settings	*	*	1%
Proportion of settings with restricted attendance	1%	2%	4%
Proportion of settings affected by children being absent due to self-isolation at time of survey	4%	5%	4%
Proportion of settings affected by staff being absent due to self-isolation at time of survey	4%	5%	NA
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,487</i>	<i>6,306</i>	<i>1,720</i>

Base: All providers responding to the main survey.

Of the 891 providers sampled for the main survey who told us they had been closed for more than 30 days (see Chapter 5 for more on the reasons for non-response), 744 reported they were permanently closed and 147 said were temporarily closed.

Of those providers that were permanently closed, many reported that they had closed for reasons unrelated to COVID-19. However, almost half of group-based providers attributed their closure since March 2020 to COVID-19 (Table 2).

Table 2 SCEYP 2021 Reasons for permanent closure

	School-based providers		Group-based providers		Childminders		All providers	
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Closed prior to March 2020 (pre-COVID)	-	4	28	95	34	109	31	208
Closed after March 2020 but for reasons unrelated to COVID-19	-	3	23	79	31	100	27	182
Closed after March 2020 for reasons related to COVID-19	-	1	49	165	35	112	42	278
<i>Unweighted base</i>		8		339		321		668

Base: All providers who reported being permanently closed at the time of the survey.

Data are unweighted and are indicative only.

Those that were temporarily closed (and presumably hoping to reopen) gave a variety of reasons for their current closure (Table 3).

Table 3 SCEYP 2021 Reasons for temporary closure

	All providers
	%
Lack of demand from parents	38
Not financially sustainable to open	36
Increased costs of adhering to COVID-19 infection control requirements	17
Cannot adhere to COVID-19 infection control requirements	14
Lack of staff available to work	5
Lack of staff willing to work	3
Other COVID-19 related reason	43
Other reason not related to COVID-19	29
<i>Unweighted base</i>	147

Base: All providers who reported being temporarily closed for more than 30 days at the time of the survey.

Providers could select more than one reason so percentages may sum to more than 100%.

Data are unweighted and are indicative only.

2. Sampling

As in previous waves of the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP), the study comprised a representative sample of the three distinct provider populations in England, each of which was analysed separately:

- Group-based providers (GBP): childcare providers registered with Ofsted and operating in non-domestic premises;
- School-based providers (SBP): nursery provision in schools, including before- and after-school provision and maintained nursery schools;
- Childminders: Ofsted-registered childminders providing early years care and operating in domestic settings (excluding providers solely on the voluntary register).

In the main Official Statistics publication for SCEYP 2021, figures were reported for five sub-groups:

- private GBPs;
- voluntary GBPs;
- school-based providers offering nursery;
- maintained nursery schools (MNS); and
- childminders.

This section describes the sampling approaches adopted for the main SCEYP and short SCEYP in 2021.

2.1 Group-based providers sample

GBPs are childcare providers registered with Ofsted and operating in non-domestic premises³. The survey collected further details about the ownership and type of childcare offered.

A request was made to Ofsted to provide information for all records in the “childcare on non-domestic premises” category (excluding those classified as inactive and those appearing on the Voluntary Childcare Register (VCR) only) from their July 2020 monthly snapshot database. The sample was based on records from July 2020 to be consistent with the timing of sampling for previous years’ surveys. The data was provided in two stages, with stage 1 providing the variables necessary for drawing the sample and stage 2

³ This does not include provision in schools.

containing provider contact details (address, telephone numbers and e-mail address). At stage 1, 25,054 cases were provided.

Prior to distributing cases between the main and short surveys, records were checked for duplicates, settings that were known to have closed or settings identified as only offering holiday care or leisure activities. In total, 1,046 cases were dropped from the sample file.

The remaining 24,008 cases were used to draw a sample for the main survey. As in 2019 a stratified random sampling approach was used. Cases were selected in proportion to the regional distribution of cases and stratified by local authority (LA), register type, ownership status, deprivation band based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) and postcode. As in 2018 and 2019, it was decided to oversample the North East to enable more robust comparisons between regions. A total of 15,121 cases were selected for the main survey.

The selected sample was then allocated systematically (using the same stratification variables) to one of three questionnaire variants (16%/42%/42% split⁴) and, within each variant, to a specific day of the week about which to answer certain questions. All GBPs that remained in the sample frame following sampling to the main survey were treated as eligible for the short survey (8,887).

Table 4 provides a breakdown of GBP sample numbers across the different survey components.

Table 4 Number of group-based providers issued to each survey element

Survey element	N
Main SCEYP	15,121
Short SCEYP	8,887
Not issued to field	1,046
<i>Total</i>	<i>25,054</i>

2.2 School-based providers sample

The sample of SBPs consisted of maintained and independent primary schools with nursery and reception provision, including maintained nursery schools (MNS). Although schools offering reception provision alongside nursey provision were eligible for the study,

⁴ The majority of providers were split between the staffing (v2) and finance (v3) variants which were of most interest analytically. A smaller proportion were allocated to variant 1 which focused on SEND. The same split has been in place since 2016.

they were only asked about their nursery provision. This sample was drawn from the Schools Census collected in January 2020 from all schools in England, complemented with further information from the Get Information About Schools (GIAS)⁵ extract. The types of schools eligible for the study were identified using the following criteria:

- **Independent schools with reception and nursery provision:** independent schools with statutory lowest age equal to 0, 1, 2 or 3 years (according to School Census) and offering nursery classes (according to GIAS);
- **Maintained nursery schools:** State-funded nursery schools (according to School Census);
- **Maintained schools with reception and nursery provision:** state-funded mainstream and special schools which offer nursery classes (which have at least one pupil in nursery and with at least one pupil in reception).

Due to the information available in the sampling frame, independent and maintained schools needed to be selected separately though they were subsequently analysed as a single group. A total of 9,706 eligible school-based providers were identified.

The sampling frames were checked for duplicate records and known or planned closures. After the sampling frame data was cleaned, it included 9,674 school-based providers.

To decide the required issued sample sizes, NatCen assumed the same response rates as in the SCEYP 2019 main sample. The response rates differed significantly between key school types, so in the calculation of the issued sample size NatCen used the response rate assumptions as presented in Table 5.

Table 5 Response rate assumptions for school-based providers by type

School type	Main survey	Short survey
Independent schools with reception and nursery provision	31%	25%
Maintained nursery schools	63%	-
Maintained schools with reception and nursery provision	31%	25%

A stratified random sampling approach was used to select the samples of school-based providers. Table 6 presents the number of cases sampled for the main survey and the short survey. As in 2018 and 2019, it was necessary to include all maintained nursery schools

⁵ Get Information About Schools (GIAS) is a register of educational establishments in England and Wales. It is maintained by the Department for Education.

that were sampled in the main survey in order to ensure achieving sufficient interviews for regional analysis. The samples were stratified by school type (disproportionate sampling), region and IDACI score to ensure geographical representativeness of the sample^{6,7}. After stratification, there were 5,882 schools eligible for the main survey. The samples were then allocated systematically (using the same stratification variables) to one of two questionnaire variants (50%/50% split) and, within each variant, to a specific day of the week about which to answer questions.

The 3,792 schools that remained in the sample frame after sampling for the main survey were allocated to the short survey. These were only maintained and independent schools offering both reception and nursery.

Table 6 Number of school-based providers issued to each survey element

Survey element	Issued (n)
Main SCEYP	5,882
Short SCEYP	3,792
Not issued to field	32
<i>Total</i>	<i>9,706</i>

2.3 Childminders sample

The sample of childminders, those offering provision on domestic premises, was drawn from the July 2020 monthly snapshot of the Ofsted register of childminders⁸. Only those who confirmed they were still practicing childminders at the time of the interview were eligible to be interviewed.

A request was made to Ofsted to provide information for all records of active childminders (excluding those appearing on the VCR only) from their July 2020 monthly snapshot database. The data was provided in two stages, with stage 1 providing the variables necessary for drawing the sample, and stage 2 containing the provider name, address and contact details (telephone numbers, e-mail address) for sampled childminders. After cleaning to remove childminders known to have closed, the stage 1 database included

⁶ Stratification by index of multiple deprivation was introduced in 2018.

⁷ Neither number of places registered nor register type were variables available in the sampling frame for school-based providers.

⁸ Childminders must either register with Ofsted or a childminder agency. Only those who were registered with Ofsted were included in the SCEYP sample frame.

36,186 active childminders⁹. This database was used to select samples for all survey components.

Based on a target response rate of 31% for the main survey, NatCen selected 4,981 childminders for the main survey sample. As in the previous years, the design of the short survey sample was driven by the need to provide estimates at LA level. Therefore, NatCen estimated how many interviews including data on fees would be achieved with the main survey and how many more would need to be invited to complete the short survey so that either 80 or 100 interviews in each LA (from both the short and main survey) could be achieved. If there were more than 600 CMs in the sample frame for an LA, the target was 100. If the LA had fewer than 600 CMs, the target was 80. A response rate of 25% was assumed for the short survey in every region except London, where a response rate of 20% was assumed based on SCEYP 2019. A total of 24,994 childminders were sampled.

A stratified random sampling approach was used to select both samples. Smaller regions were oversampled for the main survey to enable reporting by region and questionnaire variants. The sample was further stratified by LA, register type, time elapsed since registration and IDACI score, and then checked to ensure that the selection was representative of the entire population of childminders.

The selected sample was then allocated systematically (using the same stratification variables) to one of two questionnaire variants (50%/50% split) and, within each variant, to a specific day of the week to answer questions about. The sample for the short survey was stratified by the same set of variables (explicitly stratifying by LA), and then allocated to a specific day of the week about which to answer certain questions.

Table 7 Number of childminders issued to each survey element

Survey element	Issued (n)
Main SCEYP	4,981
Short SCEYP	24,994
<i>Total</i>	<i>29,975</i>

⁹ There was a notable reduction in the size of the sampling frame between 2021 and 2019, as there was between 2019 and 2018. In 2019 there were 40,988 childminders to sample from.

3. Questionnaire

3.1 Main SCEYP: Questionnaire development

As far as possible the content of the 2021 questionnaire mirrored that of the 2019 survey in order to maintain the timeseries. However, a small number of changes were made to improve the quality of data collection and take account of the impact of COVID-19.

3.3.1 Usability testing

The 2019 survey included online data collection alongside the usual telephone interviews for the first time. After reviewing the 2019 data by survey mode, there was evidence of potential mode effects at a few key questions including those asking about staff qualification levels and those asking about child:staff ratios.¹⁰

With a view to improving the design of the online questionnaire to make it as simple as possible for respondents to complete and to minimise mode effects, DfE commissioned NatCen to carry out online usability testing with a small number of providers who had taken part in the 2019 SCEYP and agreed to be recontacted. The usability testing interviews involved a NatCen researcher observing how providers navigated a subset of questions on screen and using cognitive probes to learn how they understood the questions and arrived at their answers. Nine interviews were carried out, eight with group-based providers and one with a school-based provider. Each interview lasted around an hour and participants received a £30 book token for their setting.

The following changes to the online questionnaire were made following feedback from the usability testing.

- Questions which asked for numerical data broken down by category, for example the number of staff with qualifications at different levels, were formatted in a grid and, where possible, employed a counter function which allowed respondents to check that the total number they had entered against all categories in the grid matched the required total. This was done to limit double counting and/or missing data.
- The layout of the staff:child ratio questions was simplified so that respondents only had to enter one number (the number of children per 1 staff member) rather

¹⁰ A mixed-mode pilot was conducted with a subset of SCEYP 2018 respondents to confirm there were not widespread mode effects. However, that pilot was not sufficiently large scale to pick up on all possible effects. Hence the need for further refinements after the mixed-mode approach was rolled out to the whole sample in 2019.

than recording both the number of staff and the number of children to calculate a ratio. With the former approach it was possible for providers to transpose the numbers and enter the number of staff in the answer slot for number of children or vice versa.

3.3.2 COVID-19 related changes to the questionnaire

To get as full a picture as possible on the extent to which COVID-19 restrictions were still affecting childcare providers at the time of fieldwork, a small number of questions were added to the 2021 survey. These asked about:

- Whether their childcare offer was currently restricted to certain children, for example key workers
- Whether the provider had any staff or children self-isolating because of COVID-19 on the day of the survey
- Whether they had any staff on furlough
- If they had staff on furlough, how much providers received through any furlough payments
- For childminders, whether they had applied for funding under the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme

Responses to some of these questions are shown in Table 1.

3.3.3 Other questionnaire changes

A small number of other changes were made to the 2021 questionnaire in consultation with DfE.

- Questions on the Early Years Pupil Premium and Tax Free Childcare were moved to the core questionnaire from one of the variants (see Section 3.3) so that they could be analysed alongside other variables.
- The routing of questions asking about booked and spare places was amended to make sure these questions were asked of all providers offering relevant provision.

3.3 Main SCEYP: Questionnaire sections

Table 8 sets out the questionnaire structure used in the main SCEYP 2021. As in previous years, the questionnaire was split into variants in order to reduce the time burden of completing it, while still ensuring a large enough response to enable detailed analysis.

The core questionnaire for each provider type asked a series of contextual questions as well as covering capacity and attendance.

GBPs answered the core questionnaire and one of three provider-specific variants. The content of these variants consisted of questions on either funded hours and expanding provision (variant 1), staffing (variant 2) or finances (variant 3).

SBPs and childminders answered the core questionnaire and one of two provider-specific variants. One variant asked about staffing and children with SEND (variant 1), while the other comprised financial questions (variant 2).

Table 8 Main SCEYP questionnaire sections

	School-based providers	Group-based providers	Childminders
Provider background	Core	Core	Core
Attendance and capacity	Core	Core	Core
Funded hours – delivery	Core	Core	Core
Funded hours – flexibility	Variant 2	Variant 1	Variant 1
Staff-to-child ratios	Variant 2	Variant 1+3	n/a
Children with SEND	Core	Variant 1+3	Core
Access to SENCO	Variant 1	Variant 1	Variant 1
Provider level staff questions*	Core/Variant 1	Core/Variant 2	Core/Variant1
Looped staff questions	Variant 1	Variant 2	Variant 1
Fees & Free Entitlements	Core	Variant 1+3	Variant 2
EYPP and TFC	Core	Core	Core
Expansion of provision	Variant 2	Variant 1	Variant 1
Costs of childcare	Variant 2	Variant 3	Variant 2
Income from childcare	Variant 2	Variant 3	Variant 2
Additional services	Core	Core	Core**

*Some questions in these sections were core and asked of all, some questions allocated to a specific variant.

**Only some of these questions were asked of childminders because not all were relevant.

3.3 Short SCEYP: Questionnaire

The short survey in 2021 was identical to that fielded in 2019 with the exception of a question which established the current opening status of the setting and screened in providers that had been temporarily closed for less than 30 days.

4. Survey fieldwork

The 2021 main Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP) was conducted as a mixed-mode survey, which could be completed either online (via Computer Assisted Web Interviewing, also known as “CAWI”) or on the telephone (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing, also known as “CATI”). The online web survey was hosted by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and the telephone fieldwork was conducted by NatCen and IFF Research Ltf. IFF Research Ltd provided additional telephone capacity for the project and took responsibility for 50% of the main survey sample.

Data for the mixed-mode short SCEYP was collected online and using a paper questionnaire. Fieldwork was conducted by NatCen.

4.1 Main SCEYP: Interviewer training and project briefings

Before starting work on the survey, all interviewers were required to attend a project briefing on the survey. Briefings were carried out using video teleconferencing and covered:

- Purpose of the study and how the data are used;
- Questionnaire content;
- Study procedures, including initial contact with respondents and reminder communications;
- Motivating respondents to take part;
- Practice interviews.

NatCen provided a fieldwork briefing to IFF Research to ensure consistency across the fieldwork.

4.2 Main SCEYP: Fieldwork dates

The main SCEYP fieldwork took place between 26th March¹¹ and 21st July 2021. A “web-first” design was followed, with the online survey launched first and a communication strategy designed to maximise the number of online completions (see Table 9 for communication dates). Telephone fieldwork ran from 19th April to 16th July 2021.

¹¹ These are the dates when the first and last interviews were completed. Invitation letters were mailed on 22nd March.

4.3 Main SCEYP: Making contact

Potential respondents were sent a range of survey materials to motivate participation, increase the completeness of the data collected and reduce participant burden by helping respondents to prepare in advance. Building on previous years, NatCen worked with the Department for Education (DfE) in order to make these materials as accessible, appealing and persuasive as possible. Key features of the mailings intended to encourage response included:

- **Contents of materials.** Increased the emphasis on the benefits of survey participation by stressing what results will be used for. NatCen also attempted to decrease the cost of survey participation for respondents, by reducing the length and complexity of communications and making responding as convenient as possible.
- **Using different motivational statements across the different contact attempts.** Research evidence^{12,13} shows that varying the messaging across different communications increases response rates by attracting participants with different motivations to take part. Initial communications focussed on the most popular motive for survey participation - altruism (by emphasizing the importance of the research, the value of taking part, and being able to help the families and children they support by telling the government about the impact of any changes). Later letters and emails highlighted other potential motivations, such as self-interest and the survey topic.
- **Design of mailings.** Efforts were made to ensure that all mailings looked professional and legitimate, and would not be mistaken for junk mail or commercial marketing. The layout was engaging and concise, clearly spelling out what was being asked of participants and why.
- **'Nudges' for participants without email addresses.** A postcard nudge was sent out a couple of days after the invitation letter. This was to remind those who may not have acted immediately upon receipt of the invitation letter.

¹² Dillman, D. A., Smyth, J. D., Christian, L. M. (2014). *Internet, Phone, Mail, and Mixed-Mode Surveys: The Tailored Design Method*, 4th Edition, Wiley.

¹³ Nicolaas, G., Smith, P., Pickering, K. & Branson, C. (2015). Increasing response rates in postal surveys while controlling costs: an experimental investigation. *Social Research Practice Issue 1 Winter 2015*. <http://the-sra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/social-research-practice-journal-issue-01-winter-2015.pdf>

The full range of communications sent to potential respondents was as follows:

Ministerial letter (from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families)

In order to encourage school-based providers to take part, a letter was sent from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, to this participant group at the outset of fieldwork. This letter was sent with the survey invitation. This letter highlighted the importance of the survey in providing robust and up to date evidence on the childcare and early years sector, and encouraged schools to take part.

Invitation letter

All providers were sent an invitation letter. These invitations gave full details about the study, including information security, and invited the provider to take part. They also included details on how to take part online and informed providers that they would hear from an interviewer via telephone if they did not complete the survey online. Both letters and emails included either a physical preparation sheet or a link to one online to help providers prepare to take part. See [Appendix A](#) for the survey invitation letter sent to each provider type.

Preparation sheet

The preparation sheet helped providers prepare for the telephone interview by listing information that they might need to look up in advance, such as financial figures that they were unlikely to know by heart or the qualifications of staff members. These preparation sheets were tailored according to the provider type and the variant of the survey that they would be asked to complete. They also asked respondents to focus on a particular day of the working week (Monday to Friday) in order to get precise answers that also allowed for analysis of trends in attendance and capacity that vary by weekday. Providers were encouraged to complete the preparation sheet before their interview, but this was not compulsory. See [Appendix B](#) for the preparation sheets.

Qualifications list

A list of qualifications was enclosed with the invitation letter and email to help providers identify which levels of Early Years or teaching qualifications their staff members held. Telephone interviewers were able to resend the invitation email with a link to the preparation sheet and qualifications list to providers who wanted to prepare before completing the survey. See [Appendix C](#) for the qualifications list.

Postcard /email nudge

A postcard reminder was sent to all providers with no email address or mobile phone number available. The purpose of these postcards was to jog the memories of those who may have intended to take part, but had forgotten to, and to catch the attention of those who may not have seen the first invitation.

For providers for whom an email address was available, the postcard was replaced with an email nudge drawing attention to the invitation letter.

Reminder emails and texts

Up to three reminder texts and four reminder emails were sent to all non-responding providers for whom NatGen had the relevant contact details. Each reminder stressed a different potential motivation for taking part. A final email reminder was sent only to those who had begun the questionnaire but not completed it. The email reminder contained a link to an online version of the preparation sheet.

For those providers without an email address a reminder letter was sent instead along with a copy of the preparation sheet and qualifications list.

Table 9 Main SCEYP fieldwork and communication dates

Communciation	Sent out	To arrive
Invitation letter (including ministerial letter for school based providers)	Monday 22 nd March 2021	Tuesday 6 th April 2021
Email nudge	Tuesday 6 th April 2021	Tuesday 6 th April 2021
Postcard nudge (<i>to those without an email address</i>)	Wednesday 31 st March 2021	Tuesday 6 th April 2021
Reminder email 1	Monday 12 th April 2021	Monday 12 th April 2021
Reminder SMS 1	Monday 12 th April 2021	Monday 12 th April 2021
Reminder email 2	Wednesday 28 th April 2021	Wednesday 28 th April 2021
Reminder SMS 2	Wednesday 28 th April 2021	Wednesday 28 th April 2021
Reminder letter (to those without an email address)	Friday 7 th May 2021	Monday 10 th May 2021
Reminder email 3	Wednesday 5 th May 2021	Wednesday 5 th May 2021
Reminder SMS 3	Wednesday 5 th May 2021	Wednesday 5 th May 2021
Reinder email 4	Wednesday 26 th May 2021	Wednesday 26 th May 2021
Reminder SMS 4	Wednesday 26 th May 2021	Wednesday 26 th May 2021
Reminder email 5	Wednesday 23 rd June 2021	Wednesday 23 rd June 2021

4.4 Short SCEYP: Fieldwork dates

The short SCEYP fieldwork ran from 22nd April until 14th July 2021.¹⁴ As with the main survey, a “web-first” design was followed, with the online survey launched first and a communication strategy designed to maximise the number of online completions (see Table 10 for communication dates). Paper questionnaires were sent out with reminder letters a month into fieldwork and were supplemented with email reminders.

4.5 Short SCEYP: Making contact

The communication strategy for the short SCEYP mirrored that for the main SCEYP (see [section 4.3](#)). Potential respondents were sent a range of survey materials to motivate participation, increase the completeness of the data collected and reduce participant burden by helping respondents to prepare in advance. Building on previous years, NatCen worked with DfE in order to make these materials as accessible, appealing and persuasive as possible.

The full range of communications sent to potential respondents was as follows:

Ministerial letter (from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families)

In order to encourage school-based providers to take part, a letter was sent from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, to this participant group at the outset of fieldwork. This letter highlighted the importance of the survey in providing robust and up to date evidence on the childcare and early years sector, and encouraged schools to take part. It was included along with the invitation letter.

Invitation letter and email

All providers were sent an invitation letter. These invitations gave full details about the study, including information security, and invited the provider to take part. They also included details on how to take part online. See [Appendix D](#) for the survey invitation letter sent to each provider type.

¹⁴ These are the dates when the first and last interviews were completed. Invitation letters were mailed on 20th April.

Reminder emails

Up to three reminder emails were sent to all non-responding providers who NatCen had the relevant contact details for. Each reminder stressed a different potential motivation for taking part.

A fourth reminder email was sent to group-based providers towards the end of fieldwork in an attempt to boost response among that group.

Reminder letter and paper questionnaire

A reminder letter was sent to all providers a month into fieldwork. A paper copy of the questionnaire, along with a return envelope, was included for those providers who preferred to complete the survey on paper rather than online.

A second reminder letter (and copy of the questionnaire) was subsequently sent to school-based providers to boost response among that group.

Table 10 Short SCEYP fieldwork and communication dates

Invitation letter	Sent out	To arrive
Invitation letter (and ministerial letter for school based providers)	Tuesday 20 th April 2021	Thursday 22 nd April 2021
Invitation email	Tuesday 27 th April 2021	Tuesday 27 th April 2021
Reminder email 1	Tuesday 11 th May 2021	Tuesday 11 th May 2021
Reminder email 2	Thursday 20 th May 2021	Thursday 20 th May 2021
Reminder letter 1 (including copy of paper questionnaire)	Thursday 27 th May 2021	Monday 31 st May 2021
Reminder email 3	Monday 7 th June 2021	Monday 7 th June 2021
Reminder letter 2 (school based providers only)	Friday 11 th June 2021	Monday 14 th June 2021
Reminder email 4 (group based providers only)	Wednesday 7 th July 2021	Wednesday 7 th July 2021

4.6 Contacting childcare chains

Large chains of childcare settings are a growing part of the early years sector in England. Prior to the start of fieldwork, the project lead at NatCen, wrote to the directors of all large chains (10 settings or more) identifiable in the sample. The letter explained the SCEYP, signposted people to reports from previous years, explained that head offices might be

contacted during the telephone fieldwork and thanked directors in advance for their co-operation. This letter was intended as a courtesy and so that directors could assure managers in their chains that the survey request was genuine. It is possible that, as many Chain Head Offices were not fully open due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, these letters, which were sent through the post, were not always seen by the intended recipient.

Overall, gaining participation from group-based providers that were part of a chain (national or otherwise) proved challenging. This is likely to be for a variety of reasons including difficulties identifying the correct person within each branch to complete the survey, reluctance on the part of individuals managing multiple branches to complete multiple surveys and confusion among branch managers about whether they or their chain's head office should be completing the survey. Two of the large chains asked for all of their settings to be removed from the survey due to concerns about respondent burden.

5. Response rates

5.1 Main SCEYP: Response

In total, 10,970 productive interviews were carried out as part of the main Survey for Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP). This included:

- 6,533 interviews with group-based providers (GBP);
 - 4,071 private GBPs;
 - 2,268 voluntary GBPs;
 - 194 school/college/LA/other unclassified GBPs¹⁵;
- 2,624 interviews with school-based providers (SBP);
 - 2,397 interviews with SBPs offering nursery provision;
 - 227 interviews with maintained nursery schools (MNS);
- 1,813 interviews with childminders.

Table 11 shows the outcomes achieved for each provider type. Tables 12 to 14 show the response rates achieved for each provider type and variant. Table 15 shows the productive response rate by mode.

¹⁵ All group-based providers that are not voluntary or private have been recorded in this third category, of which most are either school run, college run or local authority run group-based providers. Although this category is included in the group-based provider total, it is not reported on in the official statistics publication.

Table 11 Main SCEYP: Outcomes by provider type

	Group-based providers	School-based providers	Childminders	Total
Issued sample	15,121	5,882	4,981	25,984
Fully productive	6034	2313	1653	10000
Partially productive	499	311	160	970
Total productive	6,533	2,624	1,813	10,970
Bad number	1205	44	448	1697
Other non-contact	4470	2602	1894	8966
Total non-contact	5675	2646	2342	10663
Unavailable	942	198	43	1183
Refused	1350	358	276	1984
Other unproductive	1	0	1	2
Total contacted but unproductive	2293	556	320	3169
Permanently closed	400	8	336	744
Temporarily closed (for longer than 30 days)	47	2	98	147
Open but not offering relevant childcare	138	34	29	201
Other ineligible	35	12	43	90
Total ineligible	620	56	506	1182

Table 12 Main SCEYP: Group-based provider response rates

Response rates	Variant 1	Variant 2	Variant 3	Total
Achieved (n.)	1,058	2,840	2,635	6,533
Overall response rate¹⁶	46%	47%	44%	46%
Cooperation rate ¹⁷	74%	75%	71%	73%
Contact rate	59%	59%	58%	59%
Refusal rate	9%	9%	10%	9%
Eligibility rate	96%	96%	96%	96%

Table 13 Main SCEYP: School-based provider response rates

Response rates	Variant 1	Variant 2	Total
Achieved (n.)	1,349	1,275	2,624
Overall response rate	46%	44%	45%
Cooperation rate	83%	81%	82%
Contact rate	54%	53%	53%
Refusal rate	6%	7%	6%
Eligibility rate	99%	99%	99%

¹⁶ Response rate was calculated by dividing the number of productive cases by the number of productive and unproductive cases, and assuming a certain eligibility rate for the unknown cases. Cases with unknown eligibility were those who were 'non-contacts' and 'other unproductive'.

¹⁷ Cooperation rate was calculated by dividing the number of productive cases by the total number of known eligible providers in the sample.

Table 14 Main SCEYP: Childminder response rates

Response rates	Variant 1	Variant 2	Total
Achieved (n.)	955	858	1,813
Overall response rate	45%	41%	43%
Cooperation rate	87%	82%	85%
Contact rate	49%	46%	47%
Refusal rate	5%	7%	6%
Eligibility rate	90%	90%	90%

Table 15 Main SCEYP: Response mode (% of productive cases by telephone and web)

Response mode	Group-based providers		School-based providers		Childminders		Total	
	%	n.	%	n.	%	n.	%	n.
Telephone	46%	2,981	40%	1,055	32%	584	42%	4,620
Web	54%	3,552	60%	1,569	68%	1,229	58%	6,350

Overall, slightly more than half of the interviews were completed online (58%). This proportion was higher for childminders (68%) and SBPs (60%) than for GBPs (54%).

5.2 Main SCEYP: Interview length

Average telephone interview lengths and web interview lengths for the different provider types and variants are provided below in Tables 16 and 17. These are based on fully productive interviews that were completed within an hour on the same day; partials and any interviews longer than one hour were excluded from the analysis of interview lengths, as the timings for these outlier interviews are likely to be inaccurate.

Table 16 Main SCEYP: Average (mean) telephone interview length by provider type and questionnaire variant

Provider type	Variant	Average interview length (minutes)
Group-based providers	1	23
	2	25
	3	30
School-based providers	1	26
	2	25
Childminders	1	14
	2	24

Table 17 Main SCEYP: Average (mean) web interview length by provider type and questionnaire variant

Provider type	Variant	Average interview length (minutes)
Group-based providers	1	23
	2	26
	3	31
School-based providers	1	27
	2	29
Childminders	1	13
	2	23

5.3 Short SCEYP: Response

The total issued sample for the short SCEYP was 37,673: 8,887 GBPs, 3,792 SBPs, and 24,994 childminders.

In total, there were 10,923 interviews achieved. This included full and partially completed surveys from 2,414 GBPs, 1,656 SBPs, and 6,853 childminders. Table 18 displays the outcomes and response rates achieved for the whole sample, and by provider type. It was not possible to estimate eligibility rates given online and postal modes of data collection, so response rates were calculated based on the whole issued sample (i.e. they assume that all sampled providers were eligible). The breakdown of completions by mode (web vs postal) is shown in Table 19.

The numbers given above exclude duplicate returns. There were 104 providers who completed the short SCEYP both online and on paper. For these providers only the online data were retained. It was decided to delete the paper version because there was a higher chance of routing error and inaccuracy in the data, whereas the online survey routed participants through correctly. There were also 16 cases that had partially completed the web survey, as well as completing the whole questionnaire on paper. In these cases, the paper completion was retained and the web version was deleted.

Table 18 Short SCEYP response rates: Whole sample by provider type

	Group-based providers	School-based providers	Childminders	Total
Issued sample	8,887	3,792	24,994	37,673
Productive	2,414	1,656	6,853	10,923
• Fully productive	2,324	1,552	6,743	10,619
• Partially productive ¹⁸	90	104	110	304
Overall response rate	27%	44%	27%	29%

Table 19 Short SCEYP: Response mode (% of productive cases by post and web)

Response mode	Group-based providers		School-based providers		Childminders		Total	
	%	n.	%	n.	%	n.	%	n.
Post	37	885	29	486	41	2,841	36	3,892
Web	63	1,529	71	1,190	59	4,312	64	7,031

5.4 Short SCEYP: Interview length

The average web interview length for the different provider types are provided below in Table 20. These are based on fully productive interviews that were completed within an hour on the same day. Analysis of interview length excluded partials and interviews longer than one hour, as the timings for these outlier interviews are likely to be inaccurate.

¹⁸ Interviews on the short SCEYP survey were considered productive if the provider completed the questionnaire sections about attendance and capacity, types of care and hours open. “Partially” productive interviews include those cases where the provider completed these sections but did not reach the end of the questionnaire.

As Table 20 shows, the length of the short SCEYP ranged from six minutes on average for childminders to 11 minutes on average for SBPs.

Table 20 Short SCEYP: Average web interview length by provider type

Provider type	Average interview length (minutes)
School-based providers	11
Group-based providers	10
Childminders	6

6. Data processing

6.1 Coding

Neither the main nor the short Survey for Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP) contained any open-ended questions. However, it did include a small number of questions which offered the respondent the option to choose “other” as their response code and to provide details. After the interview, the data from these questions was coded into the existing code frames (that were used in 2018 and 2019 SCEYP) by trained coders at the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen). Queries arising from the coding process were examined by the research team to ensure that answers were coded correctly.

6.2 Main SCEYP: Data cleaning

Numeric information collected as part of the main SCEYP, such as childcare fees or opening hours, was typed in by respondents themselves (online), keyed in by interviewers (telephone) or recorded on paper and keyed in by NatCen’s Data Unit (paper). It was possible for mis-keying to occur and, on inspection, a small number of answers appeared either much too large or much too small or nonsensical given other survey answers. Therefore, it was decided to implement rules whereby certain values would be removed from the data. The following rules were applied:

- Where the reported number of the childminder’s own children booked for childminding provision on the reference day was higher than the total number of children booked for childminding provision, both the number of children booked and the number of own children booked was set to missing.
- Where the reported number of registered children aged either under two, two, or three/four years old was above 200 and was five times greater than the reported maximum number allowed to attend at any one time, the number of registered children of whichever age was recoded to missing.
- Where the reported number of places that were spare was the same as the total number of registered places, but the number of children booked was not zero, spare capacity was recoded to missing.
- Where the reported number of children booked to attend on the reference day was greater than 200 and greater than the reported maximum number allowed to attend, the number of children booked was set to missing (for school-based providers (SBP) and group-based providers (GBP) only).

- Where the reported start time of the reference day was given as “0”, this was recoded to missing. Where the duration of time on the reference day was equal to 0, and the end time given was before 8am, both were recoded to missing.

In addition, the total cost variables were set to missing for one case where it was determined that the amount entered for total costs was infeasibly high relative to setting size and the amounts given elsewhere in the questionnaire for itemised costs.

Only a small number of variables were affected and a small number of answers were removed. Table 21 summarises the topics and numbers of cases affected by these data cleaning protocols.

Table 21 Topics and numbers of cases affected by data cleaning protocols

Information gathered	Number of cases affected
Number of children booked to attend childminding provision on a given day	2
Registered number of pre-school age children	2
Spare capacity in provision on a given day	329
Number of children booked to attend full day care on a given day	1
Opening hours	71
Total costs	1

6.3 Main SCEYP: Calculating hourly pay

Respondents were asked a variety of questions in the staff loop section to help collect data on hourly pay. First, respondents were given the choice to provide an answer about pay for each member of staff for any period (i.e. hourly, daily, weekly, monthly and annually). Hourly pay was then calculated for each member of staff, based on their answer to how many hours they worked per week and what income period was given. If they could not provide an exact answer about pay they were asked to give a banded answer from the list presented to them.

When deriving the hourly pay variable, a small number of answers appeared either much too large or much too small. Accordingly, the following rules¹⁹ were applied:

- Where the reported rate of pay was zero, the derived variable was set to missing (as the analysis was interested in *paid* staff)
- Where the *calculated* rate of hourly pay was greater than zero but less than £2:

¹⁹ These rules were also applied in 2018 and 2019.

- The derived variable was set to the *reported* level of pay if that value was less than £40 (on the assumption that the answer was given for hourly pay, and the wrong time period was selected);
- The derived variable was set to missing if the reported level of pay for any period was greater than £40;
- Where the calculated rate of hourly pay was more than £300, the derived variable was set to missing²⁰.

Table 22 displays the rules and numbers of cases affected by these data cleaning protocols.

Table 22 Data cleaning protocols for deriving hourly pay and numbers of cases affected

Data cleaning protocol	Number of cases affected
Where the reported rate of pay was zero, the derived variable was <u>set to missing</u> as the analysis was interested in <i>paid</i> staff.	348
Where hourly pay was calculated to be more than £0 but less than £2, and the reported level of pay for another time period was £40 or less, it was assumed that the value given was for hourly pay, and that the wrong time period had been selected in the questionnaire. The value for derived hourly pay was therefore replaced with <u>the original value given for another period</u> .	470
Where hourly pay calculated to be more than £0 but less than £2, and the reported level of pay for another time period was more than £40, it was not possible to estimate where the extremely low figure had originated from. In this case, derived hourly pay was <u>set to missing</u> .	56
Where the calculated rate of hourly pay was more than £300, the derived variable was <u>set to missing</u> as this figure was understood to be too high to be real.	60

In each of these cases, the original pay variables were left unedited. The transformations described above were only applied to the derived variable. This meant that the dataset retained original survey data for completeness and verification purposes.

²⁰ The same cut off of £300 was used in 2019 as in 2018. The rationale for the £300 cut-off was to remove outliers which were having a substantial impact on the mean.

7. Weighting

7.1 Weighting the main SCEYP

Weighting was used to ensure that the final achieved samples were representative of early years and childcare providers in England. Survey weights were designed separately for the three provider types²¹ to correct for unequal selection probabilities and non-response bias. Grossing weights were created in order to ensure that the weighted achieved samples gross up to the population of early years and childcare providers in England.

7.1.1 Main SCEYP: Weighting for group-based providers

Population totals

The achieved sample of group-based providers was weighted to be representative of all active group-based childcare providers (GBP) in England that were eligible for the study. However, the sampling frame did not allow for the exclusion of all ineligible institutions prior to sampling, therefore the eligible population size and profile were estimated using information about institutions found to be ineligible. It was decided that settings that were subsequently found to not provide any childcare (i.e. if they had shut down) would be treated as eligible for the estimation of population totals. This was in line with the approach taken in the previous waves on the basis that establishments that had opened in the intervening period would not be included in the sample frame. This was done on the assumption that the characteristics of any settings that had opened would be roughly analogous to those that had closed. Similarly, establishments coded as “duplicates” were treated as eligible for population totals²². The total eligible population was estimated at 23,761 establishments – 98.4%²³ of the sample frame.

²¹ Survey weights were designed for the three overall provider types (group-based, school-based and childminders). In the official statistics report there are five provider types reported on separately. However, private and voluntary are sub-groups of the overall group-based provider type (and were sampled in the same way), and maintained nursery schools and school-based providers offering nursery provision are sub-groups of the overall school-based provider type (and were sampled in the same way).

²² As in 2018 and 2019, settings were removed from either the group-based or the school-based sampling frame if they appeared on both. However, they were included in the population estimates for both.

²³ Following data cleaning, 24,153 cases were included in the modelling of the eligible population.

Weighting process

Design weights

Design weights were first calculated to correct for unequal selection probabilities arising from the fact that establishments in the North East were oversampled to enable more robust comparisons between regions.

Calibration weighting

Calibration weighting was used to remove the (measurable) bias introduced through non-response to the main Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP) and align the profile of the achieved sample to the profile of the eligible population defined by: region, register type, ownership type, and deprivation band based on Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI).

Questionnaire variant weights

Questionnaire variant weights were calculated for the analysis of providers allocated to each of the three GBP variants of the questionnaire. The final overall weight served as a pre-weight for adjustments to the responding cases and their profiles were grossed up to the eligible population profile.

Day of the week weights

The selected sample was allocated systematically within each variant of the questionnaire to a specific day of the week (Monday to Friday), about which they were asked certain questions. However, providers were able to complete the survey about a different day. The questionnaire included questions ascertaining which days of the week each group was open. The profile and the overall population size for each day were estimated from the main SCEYP (weighted by overall interview weight). Subsamples of each day were then calibrated to the population profile.

Staff weights

In addition to calculating weights to make the sample representative of SBPs in England, weights for analysis of information on staff in such settings were also calculated. Staff weights were needed to account for the fact that settings employing more than a certain number of staff at a given qualification level were only asked to give information about one or two members of their team chosen at random. A design weight to take account of this selection was calculated and then multiplied by the provider-level interview weights to obtain staff level weights for each case. Additional calibration was applied to ensure that the weighted staff profile (by level of education) was in line with the data collected about the number of staff working.

Some data were excluded from the staff-level datasets prior to weighting. This included cases where information on the staff member was not provided (the staff loop was empty) and cases where there were concerns about the quality of the staff qualifications data used for calibration. Providers for whom the number of paid staff for whom qualifications were recorded was greater than +/- 2 the total number of paid staff reported have been excluded. Checks were conducted to ensure that these exclusions did not bias the sample with regard to the stratification variables used to draw the original sample.

7.1.2 Main SCEYP: Weighting for school-based providers

Population totals

To create a sampling frame of school-based providers the Schools' Census database from January 2020 was used, enhanced with further information from a Get Information About Schools (GIAS) extract. During the interviews some institutions were found to be ineligible to take part in the survey: schools that had closed down and schools that did not offer nursery provision. As for group-based providers, establishments coded as "duplicates" and those that had shut down were treated as eligible on the assumption that any school that had opened in the intervening period that would therefore not be included in the sampling frame, would be roughly analogous to those that had subsequently closed. The total eligible population was estimated at 9,600 – 98.9% of the initial sample frame²⁴.

Weighting process

Design weights

Design weights were calculated to correct for disproportionate sampling of different types of schools.

Calibration weighting

Calibration weighting was used to remove the (measurable) bias introduced through non-response to the main SCEYP and align the profile of the achieved sample to the profile of the eligible population on the following variables: school type (main stratum), region, type of establishment, quintile of number of places registered.

Questionnaire variant weights

²⁴ Following data cleaning, 9,706 cases were included in the modelling of the eligible population.

Questionnaire variant weights were calculated for the analysis of school-based providers allocated to each of the two variants of the questionnaire. The responding cases and their profiles were grossed-up to the eligible population profile.

Day of the week weights

As with GBPs, although respondents were allocated a random day of the week (Monday – Friday) to answer certain questions about, they were able to complete the survey about a different day. As in 2018 and 2019, an assumption was made that all schools were open every week day and the sample of schools which answered about each day of the week was weighted to the overall profile of the eligible population.

Staff weights

In addition to calculating weights to make the sample representative of SBPs in England, weights for analysis of information on staff in such settings were also calculated. Staff weights were needed to account for the fact that settings employing more than a certain number of staff at a given qualification level were only asked to give information about one or two members of their team chosen at random. A design weight to take account of this selection was calculated and then multiplied by the provider-level interview weights to obtain staff level weights for each case. Additional calibration was applied to ensure that the weighted staff profile (by level of education) was in line with the data collected about the number of staff working.

Some data were excluded from the staff-level datasets prior to weighting. This included cases where information on the staff member was not provided (the staff loop was empty) and cases where there were concerns about the quality of the staff qualifications data used for calibration. Providers for whom the number of paid staff for whom qualifications were recorded was greater than +/- 2 the total number of paid staff reported have been excluded. Checks were conducted to ensure that these exclusions did not bias the sample with regard to the stratification variables used to draw the original sample.

7.1.3 Main SCEYP: Weighting for childminders

Population totals

The childminders' data was weighted to be representative of the eligible population of childminders in England as of July 2020. Some childminders sampled for the main survey were found to be ineligible in that they were no longer offering provision. As in the previous waves, it was decided not to redefine the population and to assume that the population was stable in its characteristics. As in 2018 and 2019, providers with zero registered places were included on the assumption that at the time of the interview, information about the number of registered places might have already been outdated. It

was decided, as in 2018 and 2019, that cases who reported zero registered places during the interview would be re-coded as ineligible, and responding childminders would be weighted to the profile of population excluding cases with zero registered places in the sample frame. Following data cleaning, the total eligible population was 36,569.

Weighting process

Design weights

Design weights were first calculated to correct for unequal selection probabilities arising from the oversampling of smaller regions.

Calibration weights

Calibration weighting was used to remove measurable bias introduced through non-response to the main SCEYP and to align the profile of achieved sample to the profile of the population. The population targets used for calibration weighting included: region, whether on all three registers (Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register and Voluntary Childcare Register), registration year, and deprivation band based on IDACI.

Questionnaire variant weights

Questionnaire variant weights were calculated for the analysis of childminders allocated to each of the two childminder variants of the questionnaire. The responding cases and their profiles were grossed-up to the eligible population profile.

Day of the week weights

The selected sample was allocated systematically within each variant of the questionnaire to a specific day of the week (Monday to Friday) about which they were asked certain questions. The questionnaire included questions ascertaining which days of the week each group was open – these were recoded into binary variables for each day of the week and the profile as well as the overall population size for each day were estimated from the main SCEYP (weighted by overall interview weight). Subsamples of each day were then calibrated to population estimates.

Staff weights

Respondents that answered questionnaire Variant 1 were asked several follow up questions about the assistants they employ. There were up to two loops in the questionnaire for assistants, so for respondents with more than two assistants design weighting was required to compensate for this. The final staff level weight was re-scaled so that the total weighted number of assistants was in line with an estimate of the total number of assistants.

7.2 Weighting the short SCEYP

Data from the short SCEYP was combined with data from the financial variant of the main SCEYP where variables were available in both, i.e. the fees and funding questions.

The weighting strategy was designed to create a weight to be used in analysis of the combined dataset comprising data from the short SCEYP and the financial variants of the main SCEYP. Three separate weights were created for SBPs, GBPs and childminders as set out below.

The weighting strategy was the same for all provider types taking part in the short SCEYP or the financial variant of the main SCEYP. Data from the two surveys were combined for use in financial analysis, and calibrated to the same variables and population totals as used for the main SCEYP.

A combined weight was also created for analysis of all groups together. Combined weights for SBPs, GBPs and childminders were scaled so that the weighted profile by provider type was aligned with the percentage distribution of provider types in the population (modelled estimates). The weighted total base size was equal to the unweighted total base size as it was not necessary to use grossing-up for the financial weights.

Appendix – Survey materials

A. Main SCEYP: Survey invitation letter

A.1 School-based providers



<Contact>
<Provider_Name>
<Address1>
<Address2>
<Address3>
<Address4>
<Address5>
<PostCode>

Your reference number: P15618/SM<Id>/<CKL>

Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021

Dear <Contact>

We are inviting <Provider_Name> to take part in the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021. This major research study is carried out for the Department for Education (DfE) by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), IFF Research and Frontier Economics. The study is crucial to obtaining an accurate picture of the childcare and early years sector.

Over the past year the early years sector has faced unprecedented circumstances brought about by the Coronavirus pandemic. You may have recently participated in short surveys specifically related to COVID-19 and we really appreciate it if this is the case. The 2021 survey, however, covers much broader topics and allows us to gather up to date evidence about the sector as well as understand the effects of government policies and changes over time.

We understand that, particularly in the current climate, time is precious, but it is really important that we hear from you and hope that you will be able to take part.

Please visit <URL>
1. Type the address exactly as shown in the address bar of your web browser

2. Enter your unique access code and complete your questionnaire: <AccessCode>



Add your voice to thousands of others to inform government policy

Running since 1998, the survey has demonstrated the importance of understanding differences across all types of early years provision. 2309 schools took part in the last iteration of the survey in 2019, we hope you will be able to help us this year.



What does taking part involve?

Taking part involves completing a short 20 minute survey, at a time that suits you.

If you are unable to complete the survey online, a NatCen interviewer will contact you by phone in the next few weeks. If you do not want to take part, let the interviewer know when they call.

We've included a preparation sheet with this letter with information about the type of questions you will be asked, including things you might need to look up in advance.



Any questions?

Some frequently asked questions are listed on the back of this letter. For further information, or if you would prefer not to be contacted again about this research, please email childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk or call us free on 0800 652 4572. If you would like to contact DfE about this research, you can email EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Laura Hunnikin
Childcare Markets and
Demands Research

Dr Sarah Butt
Research Director
NatCen Social Research

SM/NC

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is carrying out the study?

The study has been commissioned by DfE and is being carried out by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), IFF Research and Frontier Economics.

To find out more about NatCen, please visit www.natcen.ac.uk, to find out more about IFF Research, please visit www.iffresearch.com and for more information about Frontier Economics, please visit www.frontier-economics.com.

Where did you obtain my contact details from?

We obtained your contact details from the School Census. If someone else at your school would be better placed to complete the survey, please let us know by calling free on 0800 652 4572 or by e-mailing childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk.

Why have I been selected to take part?

We've chosen you at random to make sure we get a truly representative picture of childcare and early years provision across the country. You can't be replaced by any other childcare provider as this would bias the results. This is not an inspection or assessment; we just want to know more about you as a provider in order to better understand provision across the country.

Please note that as selection is random, you may have already been selected in previous years, however this does not affect your participation in this year's survey. Your participation in 2021 is highly valued.

What would I have to do?

Taking part involves completing a 20-minute survey. Taking part is voluntary and you do not have to answer any questions you don't want to.

How would the information I provide be used?

The information from this survey is used by DfE and other researchers to understand and analyse change in the childcare and early years sector.

Results from the survey will be published as Official Statistics which will be used by the Government and its agencies to inform decisions about childcare provision. You can view previous years' publications at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-childcare-and-early-years#childcare-and-early-years-providers-survey>.

We will treat the information you give us in the strictest confidence under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The data collected are used for research purposes only. Your name and contact details will be stored securely and no one but the research team at NatCen and Frontier Economics will be able to access it. At the end of the research, any information that could be used to directly identify you will be removed from the data before it is passed to the DfE and stored in the UK Data Archive for other researchers to analyse. Your name and contact details will be securely deleted.

You can find out more about how your data will be used, and our privacy notice at www.natcen.ac.uk/childcaresurvey.

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A.2 Group-based providers



<Contact>
<Provider_Name>
<Address1>
<Address2>
<Address3>
<Address4>
<Address5>
<PostCode>

Your reference number: P15618/GM<Id>/<CKL>

Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021

Dear <Contact>

We are inviting <Provider_Name> to take part in the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021. This major research study is carried out for the Department for Education (DfE) by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), IFF Research and Frontier Economics. The study is crucial to obtaining an accurate picture of the childcare and early years sector.

Over the past year the early years sector has faced unprecedented circumstances brought about by the Coronavirus pandemic. You may have recently participated in short surveys specifically related to COVID-19 and we really appreciate it if this is the case. The 2021 survey, however, covers much broader topics and allows us to gather up to date evidence about the sector as well as understand the effects of government policies and changes over time.

We understand that, particularly in the current climate, time is precious, but it is really important that we hear from you and hope that you will be able to take part.

Please visit <URL>

1. Type the address exactly as shown in the address bar of your web browser

2. Enter your unique access code and complete your questionnaire: <AccessCode>



Add your voice to thousands of others to inform government policy

Running since 1998, the survey has demonstrated the importance of understanding differences across all types of early years provision. 6599 nurseries, pre-schools and other type of childcare providers took part in the last iteration of the survey in 2019, we hope you will be able to help us this year.



What does taking part involve?

Taking part involves completing a short 20 minute survey, at a time that suits you.

If you are unable to complete the survey online, a NatCen interviewer will contact you by phone in the next few weeks. If you do not want to take part, let the interviewer know when they call.

We've included a preparation sheet with this letter with information about the type of questions you will be asked, including things you might need to look up in advance.



Any questions?

Some frequently asked questions are listed on the back of this letter. For further information, or if you would prefer not to be contacted again about this research, please email childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk or call us free on **0800 652 4572**. If you would like to contact DfE about this research, you can email EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Laura Hunnikin
Childcare Markets and
Demands Research

Dr Sarah Butt
Research Director
NatCen Social Research

GM/NC



Frequently Asked Questions

Who is carrying out the study?

The study has been commissioned by DfE and is being carried out by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), IFF Research and Frontier Economics.

To find out more about NatCen, please visit www.natcen.ac.uk, to find out more about IFF Research, please visit www.iffresearch.com and for more information about Frontier Economics, please visit www.frontier-economics.com.

Where did you obtain my contact details from?

We obtained your contact details from the Ofsted Register. If someone else at your setting would be better placed to complete the survey, please let us know by calling free on **0800 652 4572** or by e-mailing childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk.

Why have I been selected to take part?

We've chosen you at random to make sure we get a truly representative picture of childcare and early years provision across the country. You can't be replaced by any other childcare provider as this would bias the results. This is not an inspection or assessment; we just want to know more about you as a provider in order to better understand provision across the country.

Please note that as selection is random, you may have already been selected in previous years, however this does not affect your participation in this year's survey. Your participation in 2021 is highly valued.

What would I have to do?

Taking part involves completing a 20-minute survey. Taking part is voluntary and you do not have to answer any questions you don't want to.

How would the information I provide be used?

The information from this survey is used by DfE and other researchers to understand and analyse change in the childcare and early years sector.

Results from the survey will be published as Official Statistics which will be used by the Government and its agencies to inform decisions about childcare provision. You can view previous years' publications at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-childcare-and-early-years#childcare-and-early-years-providers-survey>.

We will treat the information you give us in the strictest confidence under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The data collected are used for research purposes only. Your name and contact details will be stored securely and no one but the research team at NatCen and Frontier Economics will be able to access it. At the end of the research, any information that could be used to directly identify you will be removed from the data before it is passed to the DfE and stored in the UK Data Archive for other researchers to analyse. Your name and contact details will be securely deleted.

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A.3 Childminders



<Contact>
<Address1>
<Address2>
<Address3>
<Address4>
<Address5>
<PostCode>

Your reference number: P15618/CM<Id>/<CKL>

Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021

Dear <Contact>

We are inviting you to take part in the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021. This major research study is carried out for the Department for Education (DfE) by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), IFF Research and Frontier Economics. The study is crucial to obtaining an accurate picture of the childcare and early years sector.

Over the past year the early years sector has faced unprecedented circumstances brought about by the Coronavirus pandemic. You may have recently participated in short surveys specifically related to COVID-19 and we really appreciate it if this is the case. The 2021 survey, however, covers much broader topics and allows us to gather up to date evidence about the sector as well as understand the effects of government policies and changes over time.

We understand that, particularly in the current climate, time is precious, but it is really important that we hear from you and hope that you will be able to take part.

Please visit <URL>
1. Type the address exactly as shown in the address bar of your web browser

2. Enter your unique access code and complete your questionnaire: <AccessCode>



Add your voice to thousands of others to inform government policy

Running since 1998, the survey has demonstrated the importance of understanding differences across all types of early years provision. 1752 childminders took part in the last iteration of the survey in 2019, we hope you will be able to help us this year.



What does taking part involve?

Taking part involves completing a short 20 minute survey, at a time that suits you.

If you are unable to complete the survey online, a NatCen interviewer will contact you by phone in the next few weeks. If you do not want to take part, let the interviewer know when they call.

We've included a preparation sheet with this letter with information about the type of questions you will be asked, including things you might need to look up in advance.



Any questions?

Some frequently asked questions are listed on the back of this letter. For further information, or if you would prefer not to be contacted again about this research, please email childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk or call us free on **0800 652 4572**. If you would like to contact DfE about this research, you can email EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Laura Hunnikin
Childcare Markets and Demands Research

Dr Sarah Butt
Research Director
NatCen Social Research

CMNC



Frequently Asked Questions

Who is carrying out the study?

The study has been commissioned by DfE and is being carried out by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), IFF Research and Frontier Economics.

To find out more about NatCen, please visit www.natcen.ac.uk, to find out more about IFF Research, please visit www.iffresearch.com and for more information about Frontier Economics, please visit www.frontier-economics.com.

Where did you obtain my contact details from?

We obtained your contact details from the Ofsted Register.

Why have I been selected to take part?

We've chosen you at random to make sure we get a truly representative picture of childcare and early years provision across the country. You can't be replaced by any other childcare provider as this would bias the results. This is not an inspection or assessment; we just want to know more about you as a provider in order to better understand provision across the country.

Please note that as selection is random, you may have already been selected in previous years, however this does not affect your participation in this year's survey. Your participation in 2021 is highly valued.

What would I have to do?

Taking part involves completing a 20-minute survey. Taking part is voluntary and you do not have to answer any questions you don't want to.

How would the information I provide be used?

The information from this survey is used by DfE and other researchers to understand and analyse change in the childcare and early years sector.

Results from the survey will be published as Official Statistics which will be used by the Government and its agencies to inform decisions about childcare provision. You can view previous years' publications at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-childcare-and-early-years#childcare-and-early-years-providers-survey>.

We will treat the information you give us in the strictest confidence under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The data collected are used for research purposes only. Your name and contact details will be stored securely and no one but the research team at NatCen and Frontier Economics will be able to access it. At the end of the research, any information that could be used to directly identify you will be removed from the data before it is passed to the DfE and stored in the UK Data Archive for other researchers to analyse. Your name and contact details will be securely deleted.

You can find out more about how your data will be used, and our privacy notice at www.natcen.ac.uk/childcaresurvey

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B. Main SCEYP: Preparation sheet

B.1 School-based providers, Variant 1



Your ref: <ID>/<CKL>

Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021 Preparation Sheet

Many thanks for your interest in the Department for Education's Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers.

This preparation sheet is designed to make taking part in the survey as quick and easy as possible for you. It gives an overview of the things we will ask about in the survey some of which you may want to look up in advance. We've included boxes for you to enter information, which will help you when answering the questions in the survey.

If there is anything you don't want to answer, or feel unable to answer, that's absolutely fine.

Things we'll ask about **the children you look after in your nursery**

How many children is your nursery able to look after at one time (the number of Ofsted registered places you have)?	
---	--

How many children currently registered within your nursery setting are...

Children aged under 2?	
Children aged 2?	
Pre-school children aged 3 or 4?	
School children aged 4 to 7?	
School children aged 8 and over?	

How many have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)?	
How many have an Education, Health and Care (ECH) Plan?	

How many children receive government funded hours under the...

15 hours Free Entitlement for 2 year olds?	
15 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds?	
30 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds?	
How many have fees paid using Tax Free Childcare accounts?	
How many receive Early Years Pupil Premium?	

SBPV1



Things we'll ask about the **most recent term-time <Sample_day>** that you were open
(If you cannot answer about a <sample_day>, please think about the next day in the week that you were open.)

What time did your nursery provision start and end that day?	
--	--

How many children were booked in to attend on that <sample_day> and how many extra children you had capacity to look after during particular sessions?

Age group/Session	Number of children booked in	Extra capacity
Pre-school children		
Full day		
Morning		
Afternoon		

If your school runs any before and/or after school provision (*this would be run at least 4 days a week, and would have at least some element of childcare as its purpose, rather than focusing on a single activity such as football or music*), we will also ask:

What time did your before school provision start and end that day?	
What time did your after school provision start and end that day?	

Age group/Session	Number of children booked in	Extra capacity
School children		
Before school		
After school		
Afternoon		

SBPV1



Things we'll ask about **your staff in your nursery**

How many paid and unpaid staff are involved in delivering your provision?	Paid	Unpaid
---	------	--------

We will ask about the gender and ethnicity of your nursery's paid staff and any apprentices.

We will also ask some more detailed questions about members of staff with different levels of qualifications.

The grid below shows the questions that we will ask about members of staff at each qualification level.

Please use one row for one staff member.

If you don't have a **paid** nursery employee at any of these levels, that's not a problem – you will not have to fill in that section of the questionnaire.

If you have more than one employee that could be included in a row, please focus on the member of staff whose **surname comes first alphabetically**.

	Age (Under 18, 18-20, 21-22, 23-24, 25-39, 40-49, 50+)	Highest level of UK Early Years or teaching qualification held	Number of contracted hours per week	Pay (you can tell us their hourly, weekly, monthly or annual pay)
Person 1 Member of nursery staff qualified to Level 3				
Person 2 Member of nursery staff qualified to Level 2 or lower (including those with no qualifications)				

Please note: We will also ask you about the highest levels of Early Years or teaching related qualifications held by your paid staff. **Please complete this information on the Staff Qualifications List document provided.**

We will also ask you:

The average hourly fees that you charge for...	
Children under 2	
Children aged 2	
Pre-school children aged 3-4	
School children aged 4 and over	
The average hourly rates that you receive for the Free Entitlements for	
Children aged 2	
Children aged 3 or 4	

You will be able to skip any questions which you don't want to answer, or which are not relevant to you. This study is not about inspecting your setting– we want to understand the childcare market across the country.

This sheet is to help you prepare for the survey. You do not need to return it.

SBPV1



B.2 School-based providers, Variant 2



Your ref: <ID>/<CKL>

Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021 Preparation Sheet

Many thanks for your interest in the Department for Education's Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers.

This preparation sheet is designed to make taking part in the survey as quick and easy as possible for you. It gives an overview of the things we will ask about in the survey some of which you may want to look up in advance. We've included boxes for you to enter information, which will help you when answering the questions in the survey.

If there is anything you don't want to answer, or feel unable to answer, that's absolutely fine.

Things we'll ask about **the children you look after in your nursery**

How many children is your nursery able to look after at one time (the number of Ofsted registered places you have)?	
---	--

How many children currently registered within your nursery setting are...

Children aged under 2?	
Children aged 2?	
Pre-school children aged 3 or 4?	
School children aged 4 to 7?	
School children aged 8 and over?	

How many have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)?	
How many have an Education, Health and Care (ECH) Plan?	
How many children receive government funded hours under the...	
15 hours Free Entitlement for 2 year olds?	
15 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds?	
30 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds?	
How many have fees paid using Tax Free Childcare accounts?	
How many receive Early Years Pupil Premium?	

SBPV2





Things we'll ask about the **most recent term-time <Sample_day>** that you were open
(If you cannot answer about a <sample_day>, please think about the next day in the week that you were open.)

What time did your nursery provision start and end on that day?	
---	--

How many children were booked in to attend on that <sample_day> and how many extra children you had capacity to look after during particular sessions?

Age group/Session	Number of children booked in	Extra capacity
Pre-school children		
Full day		
Morning		
Afternoon		

Please look at registers to work out what **staff to child ratios** your setting was operating that day on average for:

Children aged under 2?	
Children aged 2?	
Pre-school children aged 3 or 4?	

If your school runs any before and/or after school provision (*this would be run at least 4 days a week, and would have at least some element of childcare as its purpose, rather than focusing on a single activity such as football or music*), we will also ask:

What time did your before school provision start and end that day?	
What time did your after school provision start and end that day?	

Age group/Session	Number of children booked in	Extra capacity
School children		
Before school		
After school		
Afternoon		

Things we'll ask about **the staff in your nursery**

How many paid and unpaid staff are involved in delivering your provision?	Paid	Unpaid
---	------	--------

We will also ask about the levels of Early Years and teaching related qualifications held by your paid staff **(please refer to the list attached)**.

SBPV2





Things we'll ask about your **nursery** finances

As different sources of costs and income can cover different time periods, you can tell us the typical amounts you spend or receive over any time period – for example per week, month term or year.

Some of the costs we ask about may be specific to your nursery provision. Others may be part of larger amounts paid for the whole school. When this is the case, please report the best estimate you have of the share for your nursery provision.

Costs: What is the typical delivery cost/ amount spent on?	Amount (£)	Time period
total cost of delivering your nursery provision?		
Staff salaries, including all taxes, NI and pension contributions?		
Rent/mortgage payments?		
Meals, snacks and refreshments that you provide for children?		
Materials used in the course of your childcare provision?		
Staff training (including courses, classes, materials)?		
Any other costs spent on delivering your childcare provision?		

Income: What is the typical income to your business from	Amount (£)
all sources (the total amount coming into your business)?	
Parent fees for ..	
Under 2s	
2 year olds	
3 and 4 year olds pre-school	
School children aged 4 year old or older	
Free entitlement funding for	
Children aged 2	
Children aged 3 or 4(including universal 15 hours and extended 30 hours and including any Early Years Pupil Premium	
Any additional charges paid by parents (e.g. meals, snacks, nappies, trips)?	
Fundraising or charitable donations?	
Income from any other sources?	

We will also ask you:

The average hourly fees that you charge for...	
Children under 2	
Children aged 2	
Pre-school children aged 3-4	
School children aged 4 and over	
The average hourly rates that you receive for the Free Entitlements for	
Children aged 2	
Children aged 3 or 4	

You will be able to skip any questions which you don't want to answer, or which are not relevant to you. This study is not about inspecting your setting– we want to understand the childcare market across the country.

This sheet is to help you prepare for the survey. You do not need to return it.

SBPV2



B.3 Group-based providers, Variant 1



Your ref: <ID>/<CKL>

Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021 Preparation Sheet

Many thanks for your interest in the Department for Education's Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers.

This preparation sheet is designed to make taking part in the survey as quick and easy as possible for you. It gives an overview of the things we will ask about in the survey some of which you may want to look up in advance. We've included boxes for you to enter information, which will help you when answering the questions in the survey.

If there is anything you don't want to answer, or feel unable to answer, that's absolutely fine.

Things we'll ask about **the children you look after**

How many children is your setting able to look after at one time (the number of Ofsted registered places you have)?	
---	--

How many children currently registered within your setting are...

Children aged under 2?	
Children aged 2?	
Pre-school children aged 3 or 4?	
School children aged 4 to 7?	
School children aged 8 and over?	

How many have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)?	
How many have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan?	
How many children receive government funded hours under the...	
15 hours Free Entitlement for 2 year olds?	
15 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds?	
30 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds?	
How many have fees paid using Tax Free Childcare accounts?	
How many receive Early Years Pupil Premium?	

GBP V1





Things we'll ask about the **most recent term-time <Sample_day>** that you were open
(If you cannot answer about a <sample_day>, please think about the next day in the week that you were open.)

What time did your childcare provision start and end on that day?	
---	--

How many children were booked in to attend on that <sample_day> and how many extra children you had capacity to look after during particular sessions?

Age group/Session	Number of children booked in	Extra capacity
Pre-school children		
Full day		
Morning		
Afternoon		

Please look at registers to work out what **staff to child ratios** your setting was operating that day on average for:

Children aged under 2?	
Children aged 2?	
Pre-school children aged 3 or 4?	

On that day, how many **school aged** children did you look after...

Before school	
After school	

Things we'll ask about **your staff**

How many paid and unpaid staff are involved in delivering your provision?	Paid	Unpaid
---	------	--------

We will ask about the levels of Early Years or teaching related qualifications held by your paid staff **(please refer to the list attached)**.

We will also ask you:

The average hourly fees that you charge for...	
Children under 2	
Children aged 2	
Pre-school children aged 3-4	
School children aged 4 and over	
The average hourly rates that you receive for the Free Entitlements for	
Children aged 2	
Children aged 3 or 4	

You will be able to skip any questions which you don't want to answer, or which are not relevant to you. This study is not about inspecting your setting – we want to understand the childcare market across the country.

This sheet is to help you prepare for the survey. You do not need to return it.

GBPV1



B.4 Group-based providers, Variant 2



Your ref: <ID>/<CKL>

Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021 Preparation Sheet

Many thanks for your interest in the Department for Education's Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers.

This preparation sheet is designed to make taking part in the survey as quick and easy as possible for you. It gives an overview of the things we will ask about in the survey some of which you may want to look up in advance. We've included boxes for you to enter information, which will help you when answering the questions in the survey.

If there is anything you don't want to answer, or feel unable to answer, that's absolutely fine.

Things we'll ask about **the children you look after**

How many children is your setting able to look after at one time (the number of Ofsted registered places you have)?	
---	--

How many children currently registered within your nursery setting are...

Children aged under 2?	
Children aged 2?	
Pre-school children aged 3 or 4?	
School children aged 4 to 7?	
School children aged 8 and over?	

How many children receive government funded hours under the...

15 hours Free Entitlement for 2 year olds?	
15 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds?	
30 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds?	
How many have fees paid using Tax Free Childcare accounts?	
How many receive Early Years Pupil Premium?	

Things we'll ask about the **most recent term-time <Sample_day>** that you were open
(If you cannot answer about a <sample_day>, please think about the next day in the week that you were open.)

What time did your childcare provision start and end that day?	
--	--

GBP2





How many children were booked in to attend on that <sample_day> and how many extra children you had capacity to look after during particular sessions?

Age group/Session	Number of children booked in	Extra capacity
Pre-school children		
Full day		
Morning		
Afternoon		

On that day, how many **school aged** children did you look after...

Before school	
After school	

Things we'll ask about **your staff**

How many paid and unpaid staff are involved in delivering your provision?	Paid	Unpaid

We will also ask some more detailed questions about members of staff with different levels of qualifications. The grid below shows the questions that we will ask about members of staff at each qualification level.

Please use one row for one staff member.

If you don't have a paid employee at any of these levels, that's not a problem – you will not have to fill in that section of the questionnaire.

If you have more than one employee that could be included in a row, please focus on the member of staff whose **surname comes first alphabetically**.

We will also ask you:

	Age (Under 18, 18-20, 21-22, 23-24, 25-39, 40-49,50+)	Highest level of UK Early Years or teaching qualification held	Number of contracted hours per week	Pay (you can tell us their hourly, weekly, monthly or annual pay)
Person 1 Member of nursery staff qualified to Level 3				
Person 2 Member of nursery staff qualified to Level 2 or lower (including those with no qualifications)				

Please note: We will also ask you about the highest levels of Early Years or teaching related qualifications held by your paid staff. **Please complete this information on the Staff Qualifications List document provided.**

We will also ask about the gender and ethnicity of your paid staff and any apprentices you may have

You will be able to skip any questions which you don't want to answer, or which are not relevant to you. This study is not about inspecting your setting– we want to understand the childcare market across the country.

This sheet is to help you prepare for the survey. You do not need to return it.

GBP2



B.5 Group-based providers, Variant 3



Your ref: <ID>/<CKL>

Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021 Preparation Sheet

Many thanks for your interest in the Department for Education's Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers.

This preparation sheet is designed to make taking part in the survey as quick and easy as possible for you. It gives an overview of the things we will ask about in the survey some of which you may want to look up in advance. We've included boxes for you to enter information, which will help you when answering the questions in the survey.

If there is anything you don't want to answer, or feel unable to answer, that's absolutely fine.

Things we'll ask about **the children you look after**

How many children is your setting able to look after at one time (the number of Ofsted registered places you have)?	
---	--

How many children currently registered with your setting are...

Children aged under 2?	
Children aged 2?	
Pre-school children aged 3 or 4?	
School children aged 4 to 7?	
School children aged 8 and over?	

How many have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)?	
How many have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan?	
How many children receive government funded hours under the...	
15 hours Free Entitlement for 2 year olds?	
15 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds?	
30 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds?	
How many have fees paid using Tax Free Childcare accounts?	
How many receive Early Years Pupil Premium?	

GBP V3





Things we'll ask about the **most recent term-time <Sample_day>** that you were open
(If you cannot answer about a <sample_day>, please think about the next day in the week that you were open.)

What time did your childcare provision start and end on that day?	
---	--

How many children were booked in to attend on that <sample_day> and how many extra children you had capacity to look after during particular sessions?

Age group/Session	Number of children booked in	Extra capacity
Pre-school children		
Full day		
Morning		
Afternoon		

Please look at registers to work out what staff to child ratios your setting was operating that day on average for:

Children aged under 2?	
Children aged 2?	
Pre-school children aged 3 or 4?	

On that day, how many **school aged children** did you look after...

Before school	
After school	

Things we'll ask about **your staff**

How many paid and unpaid staff are involved in delivering your nursery provision?	Paid	Unpaid
---	------	--------

We will also ask about the levels of Early Years and teaching related qualifications held by your paid staff (please refer to the list attached).

GBPv3





Things we'll ask about your finances

As different sources of costs and income can cover different time periods, you can tell us the typical amounts you spend or receive over any time period – for example per week, month term or year.

Costs: What is the typical delivery cost/amount spent on?	Amount (£)	Time period
total cost of delivering your provision?		
Staff salaries, including all taxes, NI and pension contributions?		
Rent/mortgage payments?		
Meals, snacks and refreshments that you provide for children?		
Materials used in the course of your childcare provision?		
Staff training (including courses, classes, materials)?		
Any other costs spent on delivering your childcare provision?		

Income: What is the typical income to your setting from	Amount (£)
all sources (the total amount coming into the business)?	
Parent fees for ..	
Under 2s	
2 year olds	
3 and 4 year olds pre-school	
School children aged 4 year old or older	
Free entitlement funding for	
Children aged 2	
Children aged 3 Or 4 (including universal 15 hours and extended 30 hours and including any Early Years Pupil Premium	
Any additional charges paid by parents (e.g. meals, snacks, nappies, trips)?	
Fundraising or charitable donations?	
Income from any other sources?	

We will also ask you:

The average hourly fees that you charge for...	
Children under 2	
Children aged 2	
Pre-school children aged 3-4	
School children aged 4 and over	
The average hourly rates that you receive for the Free Entitlements for	
Children aged 2	
Children aged 3 or 4	

You will be able to skip any questions which you don't want to answer, or which are not relevant to you. This study is not about inspecting your setting – we want to understand the childcare market across the country.

This sheet is to help you prepare for the survey. You do not need to return it.

GBPv3



B.6 Childminders, Variant 1



Your ref: <ID>/<CKL>

Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021 Preparation Sheet

Many thanks for your interest in the Department for Education's Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers.

This preparation sheet is designed to make taking part in the survey as quick and easy as possible for you. It gives an overview of the things we will ask about in the survey, some of which you may want to look up in advance or ask colleagues for help with. We've included boxes for you to enter information, which will help you when answering the questions in the survey.

If there is anything you don't want to answer, or feel unable to answer, that's absolutely fine.

Things we'll ask about **you**

How long have you worked as a childminder?	
Your highest Early Years or teaching related qualification (please refer to the list attached)?	
The number of Ofsted registered places you have?	
The number of hours you spend on your childminding business each week?	

Things we'll ask about **the children you look after**

How many children currently registered with you are...

Children aged under 2?	
Children aged 2?	
Pre-school children aged 3 or 4?	
School children aged 4 to 7?	
School children aged 8 and over?	

How many have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)?	
How many have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan?	
How many children receive government funded hours under the...	
15 hours Free Entitlement for 2 year olds?	
15 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds?	
30 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds?	
How many have fees paid using Tax Free Childcare accounts?	
How many receive Early Years Pupil Premium?	

CMV1





Things we'll ask about the **most recent term-time** <Sample_day> that you were open
(If you cannot answer about a <sample_day>, please think about the next day in the week that you were open.)

What time your childcare provision started and ended that day?	
--	--

How many children were booked in to attend on that <sample_day> and how many extra children did you have capacity to look after during particular sessions?

Age group/Session	Number of children booked in	Extra capacity
Pre-school children		
Full day		
Morning		
Afternoon		

On that day, how many school aged children did you look after...

Before school	
After school	

If you employ paid **childminding assistants**, we will ask about

Their age	
The length of time they have been working as a childminding assistant	
The highest Early Years or teaching related qualification they hold (please refer to the list attached)	
How many hours per week they are contracted to work for you	
How much they are paid	

You will be able to skip any questions which you don't want to answer, or which are not relevant to you. This study is not about inspecting you as an individual – we want to understand the childcare market across the country.

This sheet is to help you prepare for the survey. You do not need to return it.

CMV1

B.7 Childminders, Variant 2



Your ref: <ID>/<CKL>

Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021 Preparation Sheet

Many thanks for your interest in the Department for Education's Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers.

This preparation sheet is designed to make taking part in the survey as quick and easy as possible for you. It gives an overview of the things we will ask about in the survey some of which you may want to look up in advance. We've included boxes for you to enter information, which will help you when answering the questions in the survey.

If there is anything you don't want to answer, or feel unable to answer, that's absolutely fine.

Things we'll ask about **you**

How long have you worked as a childminder?	
Your highest Early Years or teaching related qualification (please refer to the list attached)?	
The number of Ofsted registered places you have?	
The number of hours you spend on your childminding business each week?	

Things we'll ask about **the children you look after**

How many children currently registered with you are...

Children aged under 2?	
Children aged 2?	
Pre-school children aged 3 or 4?	
School children aged 4 to 7?	
School children aged 8 and over?	

How many have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)?	
How many have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan?	
How many children receive government funded hours under the...	
15 hours Free Entitlement for 2 year olds?	
15 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds?	
30 hours Free Entitlement for 3-4 year olds?	
How many have fees paid using Tax Free Childcare accounts?	
How many receive Early Years Pupil Premium?	

CMV2





Things we'll ask about the **most recent term-time <Sample_day>** that you were open
(If you cannot answer about a <sample_day>, please think about the next day in the week that you were open.)

What time did your childcare provision start and end that day?	
--	--

How many children were booked in to attend on that <sample_day> and how many extra children you had capacity to look after during particular sessions?

Age group/Session	Number of children booked in	Extra capacity
Pre-school children		
Full day		
Morning		
Afternoon		

On that day, how many school aged children did you look after...

Before school	
After school	





Things we'll ask about your finances

As different sources of costs and income can cover different time periods, you can tell us the typical amounts you spend or receive over any time period – for example per week, month term or year.

Costs: What is the typical delivery cost/ amount spent on?	Amount (£)	Time period
total cost of delivering your provision (excluding rent or mortgage payments)?		
pay for any staff other than yourself (e.g. childminding assistants), including all taxes, NI and pension contributions?		
your personal childminding income?		
meals, snacks and refreshments that you provide for children?		
materials used in the course of your childcare provision?		
training for yourself or other staff (including courses, classes or materials)?		
any other costs spent on delivering your childcare provision?		

Income: What is the typical income to your business from	Amount (£)
all sources (the total amount coming into your childminding business)?	
Parent fees for...	
Under 2s	
2 year olds	
3 and 4 year olds pre-school	
School children aged 4 year old or older	
Free entitlement funding for	
Children aged 2	
Children aged 3 or 4 (including universal 15 hours and extended 30 hours and including any Early Years Pupil Premium)	
Any additional charges paid by parents (e.g. meals, snacks, nappies, trips)?	
Fundraising or charitable donations?	
Income from any other sources?	

We will also ask you:

The average hourly fees that you charge for...	
Children under 2	
Children aged 2	
Pre-school children aged 3-4	
School children aged 4 and over	
The average hourly rates that you receive for the Free Entitlements for	
Children aged 2	
Children aged 3 or 4	

You will be able to skip any questions which you don't want to answer, or which are not relevant to you. This study is not about inspecting you as an individual – we want to understand the childcare market across the country.

This sheet is to help you prepare for the survey. You do not need to return it.

CMV2



C. Main SCEYP: Qualifications sheet

Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021

Qualifications List

In the survey we will ask you about the highest Early Years or teaching qualifications held by your staff.

Below are some examples of relevant qualifications at levels from 1 to 6 to help you answer our questions.

Please fill in the boxes for each level, giving the number of paid staff whose highest Early Years or teaching qualification corresponds to that level.

Paid staff should include ONLY senior managers and those staff who are directly involved in delivering ANY of the types of childcare and early years provision - specialist support staff such as accountants would not be included.

Each member of paid staff should appear in one box/next to one qualification level only

Note: Health and social care qualifications are not considered to be relevant to this study.

Qualification level	Example Qualifications	Number of staff
Level 6 or higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) • Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) • Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) • Early Years/Childcare or teaching related Honours degree 	
Level 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation Degree in Early Years/Early Childhood Studies • Foundation Degree in Supporting Learning • Early Years/Childcare related Diploma of Higher Education • Early Years/Childcare related Higher National Diploma (HND) • Early Years/Childcare related Certificate of Higher Education • Early Years/Childcare related BTEC Professional Diploma, Certificate or Award 	
Level 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 4 NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development • Level 4 NVQ in Early Years, Care and Education • Level 4 NVQ in Playwork • Early Years/Childcare related Certificate of Higher Education • Early Years/Childcare related Higher National Certificate (HNC) 	

Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 3 Early Years Educator qualification • Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce (QCF) - Early Years • Level 3 NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development • Level 3 NVQ in Early Years Care and Education • Level 3 NVQ for Teaching Assistants • Level 3 Diploma in Playwork • Level 3 Diploma in Support Work in Schools • Level 3 Diploma in Specialist Support in Teaching and Learning • BTEC National Diploma in Childcare and Education • NNEB Certificate and Diploma at Level 3 • Level 3 Certificate for Teaching Assistants¹ • Level 3 Certificate in Support Work in Schools² • Children's and Young People's Workforce Apprenticeship at Level 3 for the Early Education and Childcare Sector • Early Years Educator Apprenticeship Level 3 • Higher Level Teaching Assistant Status (HLTA) <i>if the holder has a certificate awarded by the Training and Development Agency or the Teaching Agency</i> • T Level in Education and Childcare 	
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 2 NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development • Level 2 NVQ in Early Years Care and Education • Level 2 NVQ in Playwork • Level 2 NVQ for Teaching Assistants • Level 2 NVQ in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools • Level 2 Diploma in Playwork • Level 2 Early Years Practitioner qualification • Early Years Practitioner Apprenticeship Level 2 • BTEC First Diploma in Children's Care, Learning and Development • BTEC First Diploma in Early Years • Children's and Young People's Workforce Apprenticeship at Level 2 	
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare related Level 1 vocational qualifications (e.g. NVQ) • BTEC Awards, Certificates and Diplomas at Level 1 	
Overseas qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please only include staff who have overseas qualifications and no UK Early Years or Teaching qualifications. 	
No Early Years or Teaching qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please only include staff who have no relevant Early Years or Teaching qualifications. 	

¹ Where the holder has also achieved the Level 3 Certificate in Early Years Foundation Stage.

² Ibid

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: Do not include staff who do not work with children, such as office or catering staff. 	
--	---	--

Of the staff with **Level 3 qualifications**, how many have a qualification with 'Early Years Educator' in its title?

Note: Early Years Educator qualifications became available in September 2014 when they became the only approved qualifications for new trainees/students. They meet the most robust criteria set by the national college for their qualification to be considered qualified at Level 3.

Number of staff:

Of the staff with **Level 6 qualifications**, how many hold each of the following qualifications?

Some staff members may hold more than one of these Level 6 qualifications – if so, please include all the ones they hold.

Qualification	Number of staff
Early Years Teacher Status	
Qualified Teacher Status	
Early Years Professional Status	
An Early Years Degree	

If you have apprentices, how many are working towards the following qualifications?

Qualification	Number of staff
Early Years Apprenticeship Level 3	
Early Years Apprenticeship Level 2	

This sheet is to help you prepare for the survey. You do not need to return it.

D. Short SCEYP: Survey invitation letter

D.1 School-based providers



<Contact>
<Provider_Name>
<Address1>
<Address2>
<Address3>
<Address4>
<Address5>
<PostCode>

Your reference number: P15618/SF<d><CKL>

Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021

Dear <Contact>

We are inviting <Provider_Name> to take part in the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021. This major research study is carried out for the Department for Education (DfE) by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), IFF Research and Frontier Economics. The study is crucial to obtaining an accurate picture of the childcare and early years sector.

Over the past year the early years sector has faced unprecedented circumstances brought about by the Coronavirus pandemic. You may have recently participated in short surveys specifically related to COVID-19 and we really appreciate it if this is the case. The 2021 survey, however, covers different topics and allows us to gather up to date evidence about the sector as well as understand the effects of government policies and changes over time.

We understand that, particularly in the current climate, time is precious, but it is really important that we hear from you and hope that you will be able to take part.

Please visit <URL>
1. Type the address exactly as shown in the address bar of your web browser

2. Enter your unique access code and complete your questionnaire: <AccessCode>



Add your voice to thousands of others to inform government policy

Running since 1998, the survey has demonstrated the importance of understanding differences across all types of early years provision. 1410 schools, took part in the last iteration of the survey in 2019, we hope you will be able to help us this year.



What does taking part involve?

taking part involves completing a short 5 minute survey online, using the access code above.



Any questions?

Some frequently asked questions are listed on the back of this letter. For further information, or if you would prefer not to be contacted again about this research, please email childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk or call us free on 0800 652 4572. If you would like to contact DfE about this research, you can email EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Laura Hunnikin
Childcare Markets and Demands Research
Department for Education

Dr Sarah Butt
Research Director
NatCen Social Research

SF/NC

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is carrying out the study?

The study has been commissioned by DfE and is being carried out by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), IFF Research and Frontier Economics.

To find out more about NatCen, please visit www.natcen.ac.uk, to find out more about IFF Research, please visit www.iffresearch.com and for more information about Frontier Economics, please visit www.frontier-economics.com

Where did you obtain my contact details from?

We obtained your contact details from the School Census. If someone else at your school would be better placed to complete the survey, please let us know by calling free on 0800 652 4572 or by e-mailing childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk.

Why have I been selected to take part?

We've chosen you at random to make sure we get a truly representative picture of childcare and early years provision across the country. You can't be replaced by any other childcare provider as this would bias the results. This is not an inspection or assessment; we just want to know more about you as a provider in order to better understand provision across the country.

Please note that as selection is random, you may have already been selected in previous years, however this does not affect your participation in this year's survey. Your participation in 2021 is highly valued.

What would I have to do?

Taking part involves completing a 5-minute survey. Taking part is voluntary and you do not have to answer any questions you don't want to.

How would the information I provide be used?

The information from this survey is used by DfE and other researchers to understand and analyse change in the childcare and early years sector.

Results from the survey will be published as Official Statistics which will be used by the Government and its agencies to inform decisions about childcare provision. You can view previous years' publications at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-childcare-and-early-years#childcare-and-early-years-providers-survey>.

We will treat the information you give us in the strictest confidence under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The data collected are used for research purposes only. Your name and contact details will be stored securely and no one but the research team at NatCen and Frontier Economics will be able to access it. At the end of the research, any information that could be used to directly identify you will be removed from the data before it is passed to the DfE and stored in the UK Data Archive for other researchers to analyse. Your name and contact details will be securely deleted.

You can find out more about how your data will be used, and our privacy notice at www.natcen.ac.uk/childcaresurvey.

D.2 Group-based providers



<Contact>
<Provider_Name>
<Address1>
<Address2>
<Address3>
<Address4>
<Address5>
<PostCode>

Your reference number: P15618/GF<Id>/<CKL>

Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021

Dear <Contact>

We are inviting <Provider_Name> to take part in the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021. This major research study is carried out for the Department for Education (DfE) by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), IFF Research and Frontier Economics. The study is crucial to obtaining an accurate picture of the childcare and early years sector.

Over the past year the early years sector has faced unprecedented circumstances brought about by the Coronavirus pandemic. You may have recently participated in short surveys specifically related to COVID-19 and we really appreciate it if this is the case. The 2021 survey, however, covers different topics and allows us to gather up to date evidence about the sector as well as understand the effects of government policies and changes over time.

We understand that, particularly in the current climate, time is precious, but it is really important that we hear from you and hope that you will be able to take part.

Please visit <URL>

1. Type the address exactly as shown in the address bar of your web browser

2. Enter your unique access code and complete your questionnaire: <AccessCode>



Add your voice to thousands of others to inform government policy

Running since 1998, the survey has demonstrated the importance of understanding differences across all types of early years provision. 2720 nurseries, pre-schools and other type of childcare providers took part in the last iteration of the survey in 2019, we hope you will be able to help us this year.



What does taking part involve?

Taking part involves completing a short 5 minute survey online, using the access code above.



Any questions?

Some frequently asked questions are listed on the back of this letter. For further information, or if you would prefer not to be contacted again about this research, please email childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk or call us free on 0800 652 4572. If you would like to contact DfE about this research, you can email EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Laura Hunnikin
Childcare Markets and Demands Research
Department for Education

Dr Sarah Butt
Research Director
NatCen Social Research

GF/NC

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To find out more about NatCen, please visit www.natcen.ac.uk, to find out more about IFF Research, please visit www.iffresearch.com and for more information about Frontier Economics, please visit www.frontier-economics.com.

Where did you obtain my contact details from?

We obtained your contact details from the Ofsted Register. If someone else at your setting would be better placed to complete the survey, please let us know by calling free on **0800 652 4572** or by e-mailing childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk.

Why have I been selected to take part?

We've chosen you at random to make sure we get a truly representative picture of childcare and early years provision across the country. You can't be replaced by any other childcare provider as this would bias the results. This is not an inspection or assessment; we just want to know more about you as a provider in order to better understand provision across the country.

Please note that as selection is random, you may have already been selected in previous years, however this does not affect your participation in this year's survey. Your participation in 2021 is highly valued.

What would I have to do?

Taking part involves completing a 5-minute survey. Taking part is voluntary and you do not have to answer any questions you don't want to.

How would the information I provide be used?

The information from this survey is used by DfE and other researchers to understand and analyse change in the childcare and early years sector.

Results from the survey will be published as Official Statistics which will be used by the Government and its agencies to inform decisions about childcare provision. You can view previous years' publications at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-childcare-and-early-years#childcare-and-early-years-providers-survey>.

We will treat the information you give us in the strictest confidence under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The data collected are used for research purposes only. Your name and contact details will be stored securely and no one but the research team at NatCen and Frontier Economics will be able to access it. At the end of the research, any information that could be used to directly identify you will be removed from the data before it is passed to the DfE and stored in the UK Data Archive for other researchers to analyse. Your name and contact details will be securely deleted.

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D.3 Childminders



<Contact>
<Address1>
<Address2>
<Address3>
<Address4>
<Address5>
<PostCode>

Your reference number: P15618/CF<Id>/<CKL>

Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021

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We understand that, particularly in the current climate, time is precious, but it is really important that we hear from you and hope that you will be able to take part.

1. Please visit <URL>
Type the address exactly as shown in the address bar of your web browser

2. Enter your unique access code and complete your questionnaire: <AccessCode>



Add your voice to thousands of others to inform government policy

Running since 1998, the survey has demonstrated the importance of understanding differences across all types of early years provision. 6599 childminders took part in the last iteration of the survey in 2019, we hope you will be able to help us this year.



What does taking part involve?

Taking part involves completing a short 5 minute survey online, using the access code above. If you do not want to take part, you can let us know by using the contact details below.



Any questions?

Some frequently asked questions are listed on the back of this letter. For further information, or if you would prefer not to be contacted again about this research, please email childcaresurvey@natcen.ac.uk or call us free on 0800 652 4572. If you would like to contact DfE about this research, you can email EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Laura Hunnikin
Childcare Markets and Demands Research
Department for Education

Dr Sarah Butt
Research Director
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CF/NC

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Department
for Education

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Reference: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021



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