

Good evening,

I am an Ousted registered childminder working in [REDACTED] These are the points I would like raised:

1/ Nurseries can offer funding for relatives but childminders cannot, why is one setting treated differently to another?

2/ Locally I have heard of childminders now refusing to take 3-4 year olds because the rate of pay is so low. Our ratios are the same for all early years children but we get paid almost twice as much for child under two than a three to four year old.

It is difficult for a business to operate knowing that fees will reduce when the child turns two years and again when they reach three. This also means that choice is limited for parents if childminders are no longer willing to offer care for 3-4 year olds.

We know that more and more parents are choosing to homeschool and I believe many prefer home based care for their early years children to school/nursery based. I attract parents who want their children to be outdoors and attending community groups and events.

3/ Childminders are self employed yet the government are dictating what we charge. This means we can't increase fees to provide a higher quality services, again reducing parental choice. The government aren't paying us sick pay or holiday pay, we don't have the perks of being employed but are being treated as employees and told what to charge.

4/ In the past I have seen initiatives to recruit new childminders. I believe retention is the issue, I have been registered for almost 16 years and see so many people register and then leave the profession. I don't know many childminders in this area who have been childminding for a long time.

Regards,

[REDACTED]