

Wirral Borough Council



**Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
Report April 2019 – March 2020**

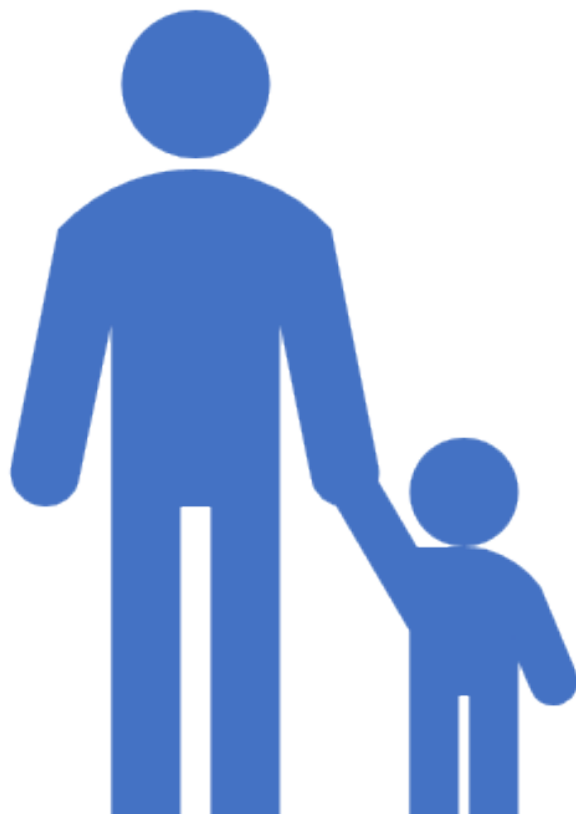
Introduction

Councils are required by law to 'report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and to make the report available and accessible to parents'. This report has been prepared in order to meet this duty.

Having sufficient childcare means that families are able to find childcare that meets their child's learning needs and enables parents to make a real choice about work and training.

In this report, the assessment of sufficiency uses data about the need for childcare and the amount of childcare available, along with feedback from local parents about how easy or difficult it has been for them to find childcare that meets their needs.

The sufficiency information is used to plan Wirral's work in supporting the local childcare economy.



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1. Overall assessment and summary

Children below school age

There are 18,436 children under the age of 5 living in Wirral, many of whom may require some form of childcare.

Wirral has 384 early years providers, delivering a variety of places, 223 of these offer 2-year old funded places, and 253 offer 3 and 4-year old funded places. 279 early years providers are Privately, Voluntary or Independently (PVI) run, of these PVI's, 97.5% are rated outstanding, Good or having Met Requirements by Ofsted. Most providers offer care between 8am and 6pm, with a good proportion of these offering childcare during atypical hours (outside 8am and 6pm on weekdays), some childcare providers also offer childcare of a weekend.

School aged children

38,346 children of statutory school age live in the Borough, and some may require before, after school and/or holiday care.

SEND

1731 children aged 18 or under have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), and may require childcare with SEND provision. 196 children are being supported by The Council's SEND team, whilst 108 children are receiving Inclusive Practice Fund (IPF), 52 children are receiving Portage and 29 children are accessing the Disability Access Fund (DAF).

Employment

Over a third of the working population work in the health & social work profession or wholesale and retail trade, meaning they may require flexible childcare, outside of regular hours, and during weekends.

Provision

Childminders, Pre-Schools and Schools are operating at about 85% occupancy, with Day Nurseries and Extended Care providers operating at around 78%, meaning there is sufficiency for any increase in requirements this year. The average price for day nurseries and pre-schools is in the region of £40 to £43 per day, with childminders being around £36 per day, holiday care averages at £32 per day and before and after school care at £4.50 and £8.00 respectively.

Parental Views

Three quarters of parents when surveyed were able to easily find childcare to suit their requirements and agreed there is suitable holiday provision available. Most parents require childcare all year round, with about a quarter requiring childcare term time only. Over half of parents use Day Nurseries for their childcare, with a third using preschools, and less than 15% using childminders.


Conclusion

In Wirral there has been a number of settings close, particularly in the Wallasey locality, the birth rate has also continued to decrease across the Borough. There are currently sufficient places available, and accessible across the Borough in order to accommodate the needs of children of all ages, however sufficiency and the demand for childcare must be closely monitored over the course of year.

Wirral Borough Council Childcare Sufficiency 2019/20


There are 18,436
children aged 0 to 5
in Wirral


There are 38,346
children aged 5 to 14
in Wirral


75%
of the working age population
are in employment

23%
of workers may require childcare
during atypical hours



55 children aged 0 to
4 in Wirral have an
EHCP


1676 children aged 5
to 18 in Wirral have
an EHCP

2 YEAR OLD FUNDING

- 32%** of 2 year olds are eligible nationally
- 35%** of 2 year olds are eligible in Wirral
- 81%** of eligible 2 year olds are taking up funding in Birkenhead
- 87%** of eligible 2 year olds are taking up funding in South & West
- 97%** of eligible 2 year olds are taking up funding in Wallasey



AVERAGE PRICE OF CHILDCARE PER DAY

Day Nursery / Pre-School	• Under 1's • Under 3's • Over 3's	£43.96 £41.35 £40.38
Childminder	• Under 1's • Under 3's • Over 3's	£36.23 £36.23 £36.00
Extended Care	• Breakfast Club • After School Club • Holiday Club	£4.88 £9.13 £32.00

3 & 4 YEAR OLD FUNDING

- 98%** of 3 year olds are taking up a Universal funded place
- 96%** of 4 year olds are taking up a Universal funded place
- 2910** Extended Entitlement codes have been issued in Wirral
- 2811** Extended Entitlement 3 & 4 year olds are accessing a place

PROVIDER OCCUPANCY



On average settings are about 80% full, and most have vacancies for all ages

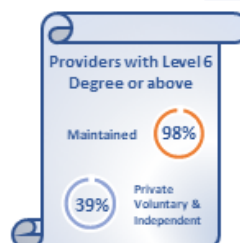
AVERAGE OPENING HOURS

Childminder	Day Nursery	Pre-School
Open: 8am Close: 6pm	Open: 8am Close: 6pm	Open: 9am Close: 6pm
Before/After School	Holiday Clubs	Schools
Open: 7:45am Close: 5:45pm	Open: 7:45am Close: 5:45pm	Open: 8:45am Close: 3:30pm

PROVIDERS DELIVERING FUNDED PLACES



95%
of Providers are Ofsted rated Outstanding, Good or Met



Parent Views

75% of parents were able to easily find childcare, with 75% agreeing there is suitable holiday provision available



Most parents require childcare all year round, with 23% requiring term time only. Over half of parents surveyed use Day Nurseries, 34% use Pre-Schools & 13% use Childminders



50% of parents use paid for hours, with 13% of those surveyed using 15 hours of funded entitlement, & 37% using 30 hours of funded entitlement

Almost a quarter of parents cited proximity to work as the most important factor in choosing childcare, followed by type of provider, type of funding offer, opening hours, flexibility and proximity to home



25% of parents told us they are aware of the 2 year funding entitlement, whilst 26% of parents are aware of 3 & 4 year old funding. 33% of parents surveyed are aware of the extended 3 & 4 year old funding entitlement

Less than 10% of parents told us they are aware of the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)



Only 5% of parents surveyed said they are aware of the Disability Access Fund (DAF) & Inclusive Practice Fund (IPF)

(Parents were surveyed via Focusgroups/Survey Monkey/Qualtrics/Canvas)

2. Recommendations from the 2017/18 Report

Recommendations from the last sufficiency report and what has been achieved.

Recommendation One

Monitor the take up of the extended Early Years Funding Entitlement (EYFE) offer to working parents and carers.

Response

The take up of EYFE has been carefully monitored each term. Data has been interrogated to ensure our most vulnerable children and taking up the offer. This has led to improvements in assertive outreach and changes to marketing. All of which has had a positive impact on take up.

Recommendation Two

Implement the online tool to monitor childcare sufficiency on a more regular basis than yearly.

Response

Work has been underway to implement a new online tool to monitor sufficiency and is now in a position to procure new software, work is ongoing to procure this system and the early years team will be working closely with providers to get ready to transition to this new way of working in the future.

Recommendation Three

Continue to work with providers to support them to deliver a flexible offer of the extended EYFE to parents and carers.

Response

Providers were supported with training to offer a sustainable model for the extended EYFE offer, the business support and quality improvement team have also provided 121 support to ensure delivery models are consistent with legislation and are sustainable for a provider. This has seen a take up of 95% of the extended offer with the majority of parents happy with the flexibility of their provision.

Recommendation Four

To consult with parents on their childcare needs to inform the childcare sufficiency assessment for 2019.

Response

Surveys were conducted online through facebook and survey monkey, and in children's centre's and the data was collated to inform the 2019/20 sufficiency report.

3. Our plans for childcare

The birth rate in Wirral has been decreasing over a number of years, therefore there is a need to continue to monitor the demand for childcare against our supply of childcare, to prevent an oversupply of childcare which may result in some providers struggling to sustain their businesses. This will happen on an annual basis with the primary aim to support families with their childcare requirements, and to work with providers to help keep their business sustainable.

Over the last 12 months there has been some settings closures, with the majority being in the Wallasey locality, there is a need to establish why these settings have closed, and to monitor the closure of any settings to see if there are patterns emerging, to identify and to work more closely with some settings in order to help them sustain their businesses. Also to closely monitor the sufficiency in areas where settings are closing to ensure there is enough provision for any affected children to seamlessly transition to a new setting nearby.

Recommendation One

There will be a focus on monitoring changes to the supply and demand for childcare, including the decrease in the birthrate along with closure of settings, working with childcare providers to identify any potential challenges that could impact sustainability of their business. In addition, continue to monitor sufficiency within the borough to ensure there is suitable provision for any children who may be affected by setting closures.

Recommendation Two

There will be close working with providers, ensuring that the information we hold on them is up to date and easily accessible, with the implementation of a new system which will enable effective advertisements of childcare services to parents, and to make it easier for parents to search for providers that meet their needs.

Recommendation Three

There will be a continued identification of eligible families not taking up funded childcare to see if there are any barriers that we can remove to enable them to take up a place with a childcare provider.

Recommendation Four

There will be more regularly survey parents and analyse the data collated from them to get a picture of the childcare market from their point of view, and to ascertain whether the information available to parents about childcare is accessible or whether any improvements need to be made.

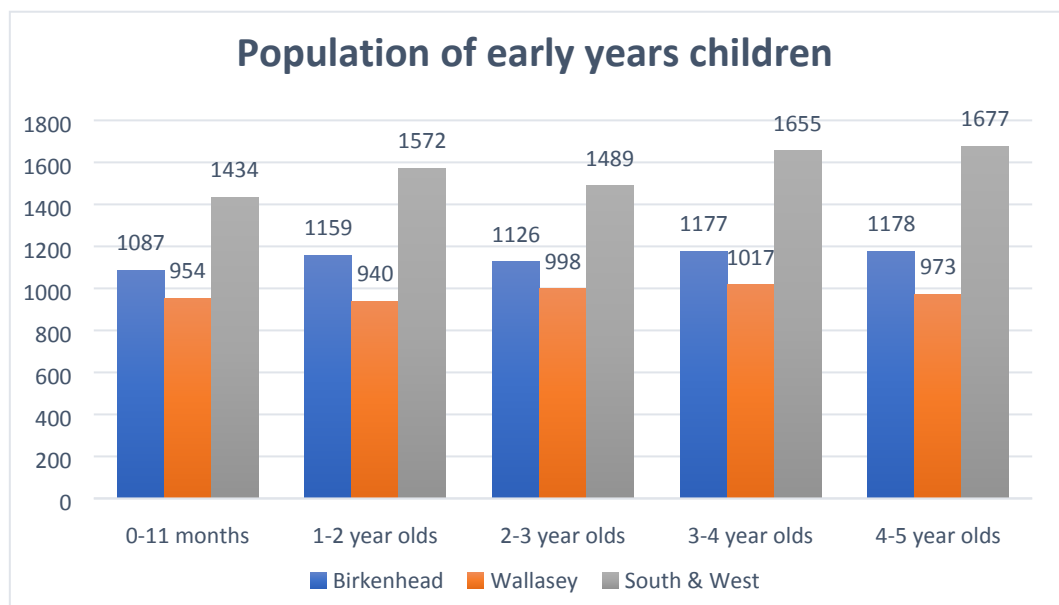
Recommendation Five

There will be improved marketing to make more parents aware of funding streams such as 2 and 3/4 year old funding, Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), Disability Access Fund (DAF) & Inclusive Practice Fund (IPF).

4. Demand for childcare

Population of early years children

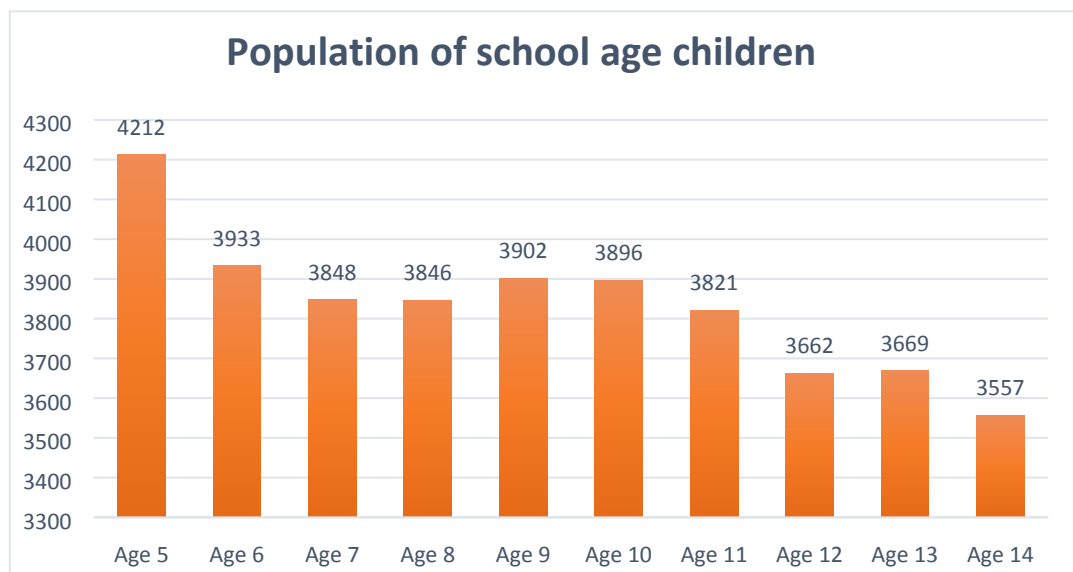
In total, there are 18,436 children under the age of five living in Wirral. A large number of families will require early years childcare.



Data from NOMIS mid-2018 population data

Population of school age children

There are 38,346 children aged five to 14 living in Wirral. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.



Data from the NOMIS mid-2017 population data

Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18 (age 14 for children who do not have a special need or disability). The number of children up to the age of 18 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in our local authority is: 1731

Birth to school age

There are 55 children under the age of five with an EHCP in Wirral, attending either a Mainstream establishment or a Special School;

Number attending Mainstream School	8
Number attending Special School	45
Number attending Specialist Provision in Mainstream School	2

Age 5 to 18

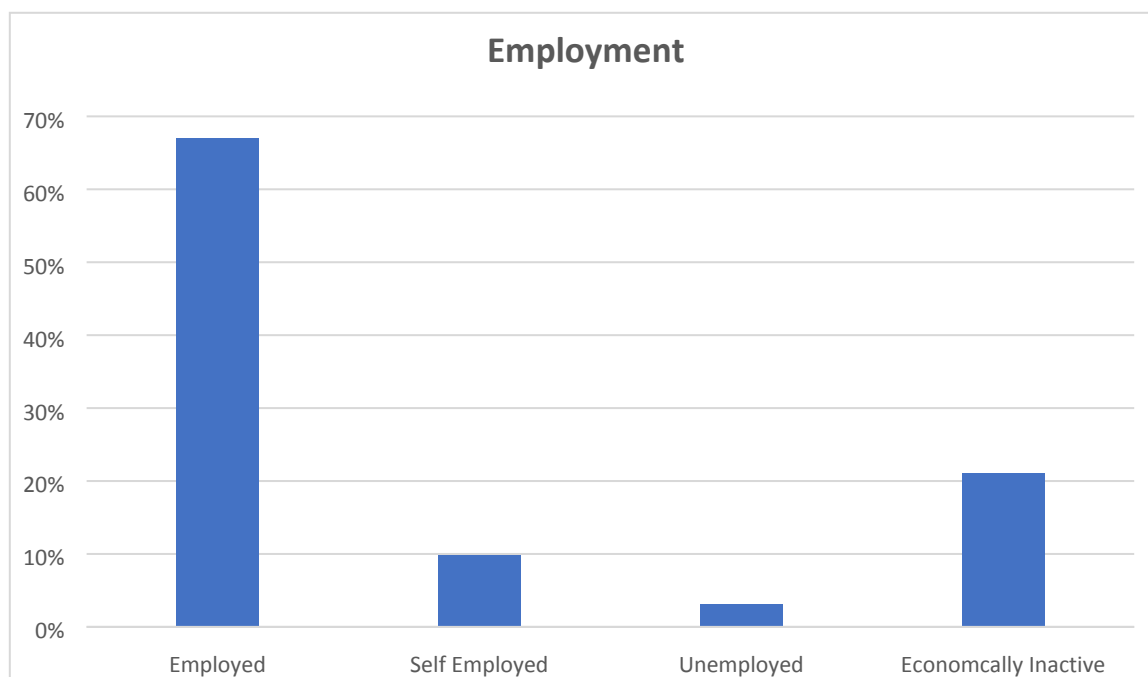
There are 1676 children between the ages of five and eighteen with an EHCP in Wirral, attending either a Mainstream establishment or a Special School;

Number attending Mainstream School	231
Number attending Special School	1152
Number attending Specialist Provision in Mainstream School	285
Number attending Independent School	5
Number attending Grammar School	3

Children's needs change over time and are identified at different ages. Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in childcare or school, and it can take some time from problems being identified to an EHCP being issued. It is therefore possible that the number of children from birth to school age with an EHCP is an underestimate. Some children have SEN but do not have an EHCP.

Employment

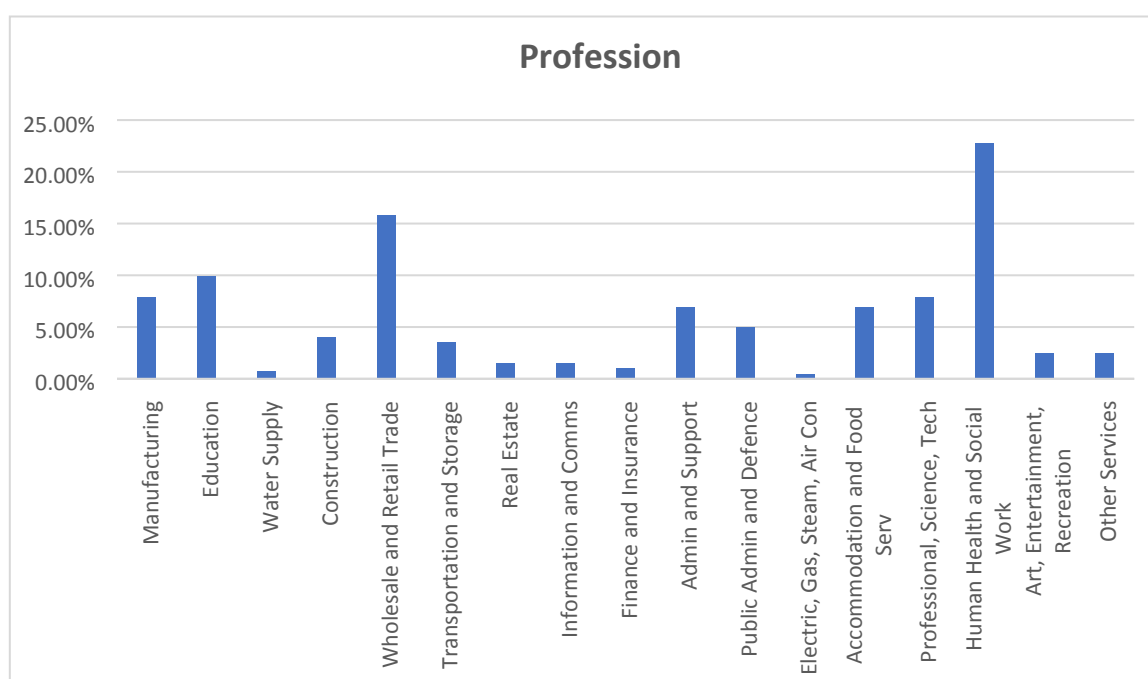
Over 75% of the working age population are in employment or self-employed and may require childcare.



Data from the NOMIS Jul 2018 – Jun 2019 Employment and Unemployment

Profession

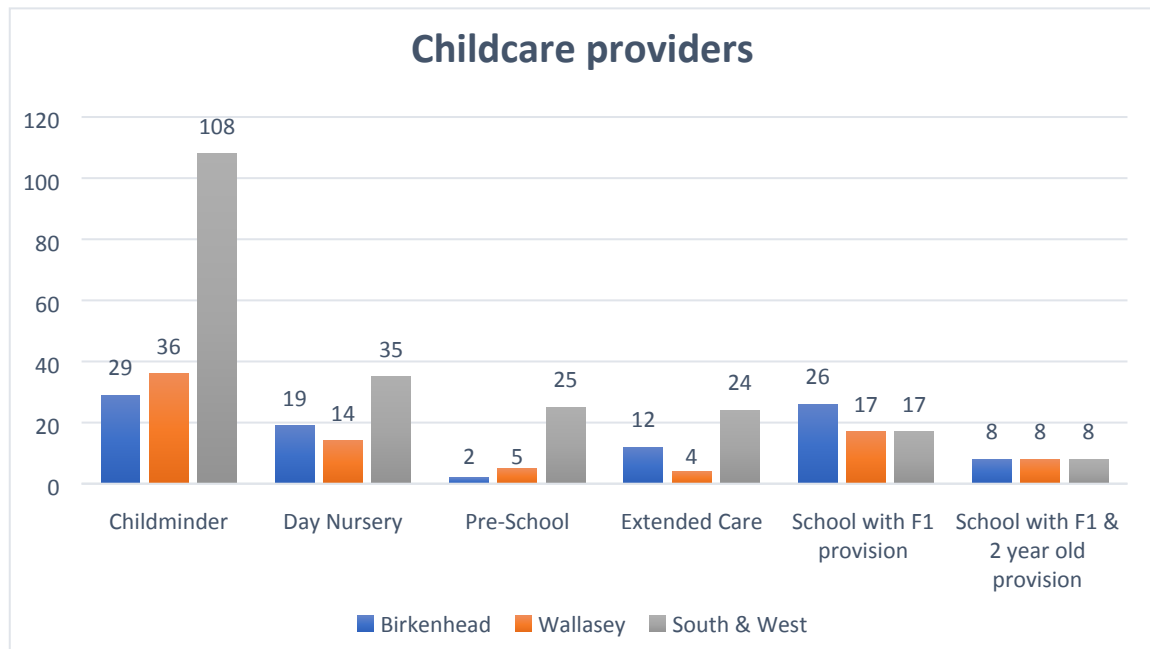
Around 23% of the working population work in the Health & Social Care sector, or Wholesale & Retail sector, and may require childcare outside of typical hours.



Data from NOMIS 2018 Employee Jobs

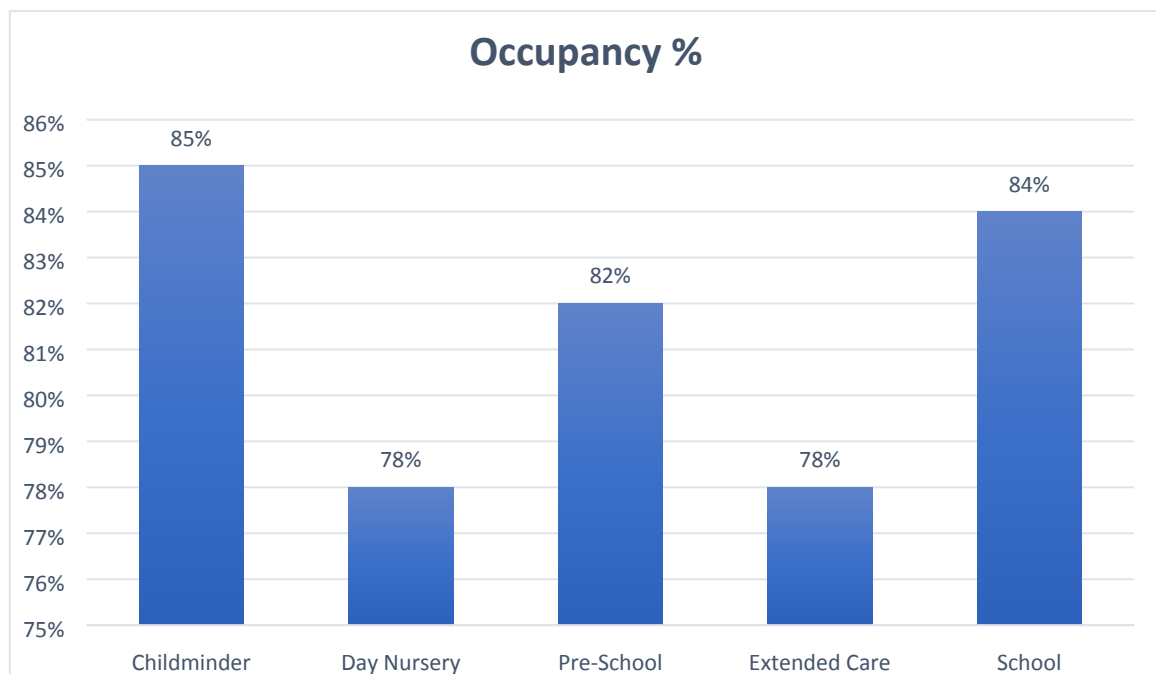
5. Supply of childcare

In total there are 384 childcare providers in our local authority. We have seen a decrease in the number of providers since our last assessment.



Occupancy

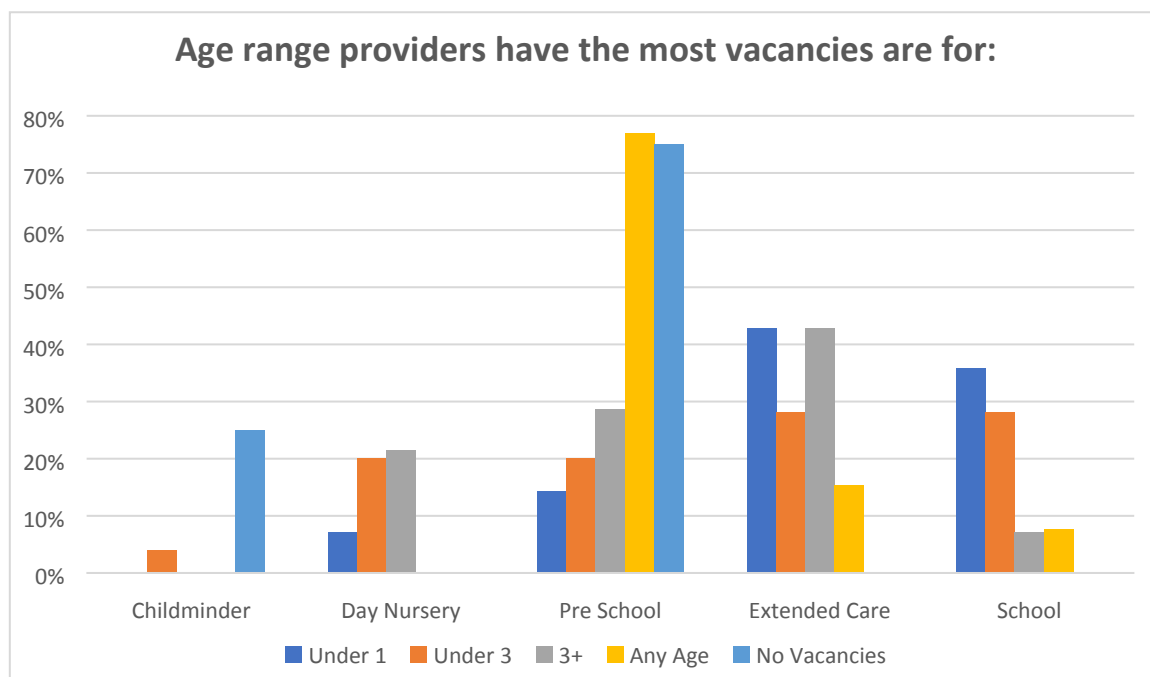
The average occupancy rates for the different types of providers is:



Occupancy percentages have been calculated using data returned to us from a sufficiency questionnaire published earlier this year, the response rate to this questionnaire was 36% so the above percentages only provide stats for some of the childcare market

Vacancies

In some cases, providers may have a vacancy which is only for a specific age group, or for a particular part-time arrangement. *(We ask providers to report vacancies to us but not all choose to do this)*. In general, vacancy rates are higher in the autumn when children transition to school.



Vacancies have been calculated using data returned to us from a sufficiency questionnaire published earlier this year, the response rate to this questionnaire was 36% so the above percentages only provide stats for some of the childcare market

Availability of childcare

Average opening hours of the following providers, Monday to Friday

Provider Type	Open	Close	Total hours
Childminder	8am	6pm	10 hours
Day Nursery	8am	6pm	10 hours
Pre-School	9am	6pm	9 hours
Extended Care (Before/After School)	7:45am	5:45pm	AM 1 hour PM 2 hours 45 mins
Extended Care (Holiday Club)	7:45am	5:45pm	10 hours
School	8:45am	3:30pm	6 hours 45 mins

Average opening hours have been calculated using data returned to us from a sufficiency questionnaire published earlier this year, the response rate to this questionnaire was 36% so the above percentages only provide stats for some of the childcare market

Providers who are open for 3 hours or more 5 days per week, 5 hours or more 3 sessions per week between 9am and 3pm, or outside of the school day receive a flexibility supplement as part of their funding rate.

6. Funded early education

Some children are entitled to free childcare, funded by the government. These entitlements are for 38 weeks per year.

- All children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to 15 hours per week until they start reception class in school
- Children aged 3 and 4 where both parents are working, or from lone parent families where that parent is working, are entitled to 30 hours per week until they start reception class in school¹
- Children aged 2 whose families receive certain benefits (including low income families in receipt of in-work benefits), or those who meet additional non-economic criteria, are entitled to 15 hours per week. Nationally it is estimated around 32% of 2 years olds are entitled to this offer, with about 68% taking up the offer, but the proportion varies by area.

¹ Available to families where each parent (or one parent in a single adult household) is earning the equivalent of working sixteen hours per week on the minimum wage.

Parents do not have to use all the hours of their funded entitlement. They may also choose to split them between providers. With the agreement of their provider, parents may also spread them across the year – for example, rather than taking 15 hours for 38 weeks a year they could take just under 12 hours for 48 weeks a year.

Proportion of 2-year-olds entitled to funded early education

In Wirral, around 35% of 2-year olds are entitled to funded early education.

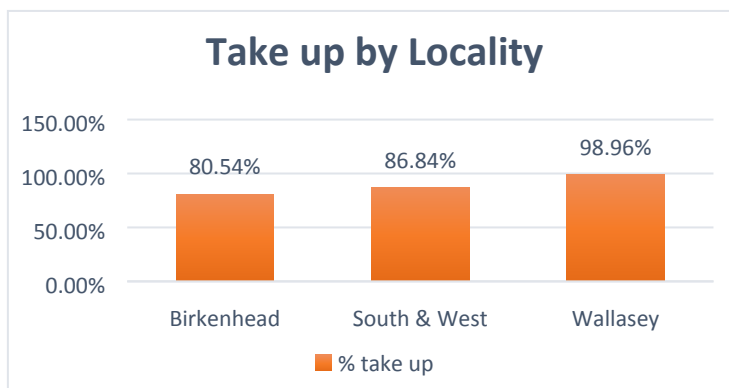
Wirral currently has a favourable 2-year-old funding performance against the national average of 68%. Since January 2018 Wirral's funding has fluctuated peaking at 92% in October 2018 and dropping as low as 80% in May 2019.

Primarily the cause of the changing funding figure is due to a changing eligible population. Additionally, a reduction in the number of children accessing funding has also contributed to the decrease in the funding figure.

Although the difference between October 2018 and May 2019 was 12 percentage points, in real terms there were only 15 fewer children accessing funding in May 2019 than October 2018. However, the eligible population grew by 157 during this time.

Take up of funded 2-year-old education

The proportion of eligible children taking up their 2-year-old funded place (for at least some of the available hours) in our local authority is: 88%²



² The 2-year-old funding figure is calculated as a percentage using the following sum: (Number of children Accessing Funding / Eligible Known Population) x100

Take up funded 3 and 4-year-old education

The proportion of eligible children taking up their universal 3 and 4-year-old funded place (for at least some of the available hours) in our local authority is: 97%³

³ The percentage of 3- and 4-year old's taking up funded early education includes 4-year old's in reception classes

Three Year Olds – Universal Entitlement		
	Population	No of funded children
Wirral	3613	3533
Birkenhead	1126	1026
S&W	1489	1692
Wallasey	998	853

Four Year Olds - Universal Entitlement			
	Population	No of funded children	No in a Reception class
Wirral	3849	117	3590
Birkenhead	1177	52	Not Available
S&W	1655	50	Not Available
Wallasey	1017	15	Not Available

3 and 4-year-old funded entitlement applications

Parents who think they are entitled to a 30 hour extended hours place apply for this online through the Government's Childcare Support website. The same website is used to apply for tax free childcare and parents can apply for either or both. If a parent is eligible, the system creates a code which they can use with their chosen childcare provider. If they are ineligible, they will still be entitled to the universal 15 hours of early education and childcare.

Three Year Olds - Extended Entitlement		
	Population	No of funded children
Wirral	<i>Data not available</i>	1829
Birkenhead	<i>Data not available</i>	419
S&W	<i>Data not available</i>	1082
Wallasey	<i>Data not available</i>	403

Four Year Olds – Extended Entitlement		
	Population	No of funded children
Wirral	<i>Data not available</i>	51
Birkenhead	<i>Data not available</i>	25
S&W	<i>Data not available</i>	21
Wallasey	<i>Data not available</i>	5

Providers offering funded early education places

Providers are paid directly by the Local Authority for delivering funded early education places. They are not required to offer them, but parents may choose to use a different provider if they do not. Some providers offer a restricted number of funded places.

Childcare providers delivering 2-year funded places

There are 223 providers (58%) currently delivering 2-year funded places in Wirral:

	Childminder	Day Nursery	Pre-School	Maintained Nursery School	Independent School	School
Birkenhead	17	18	1	0	0	9
Wallasey	15	13	6	2	0	6
South & West	77	33	19	1	0	6
Total	109	64	26	3	0	21

Childcare providers delivering 3 and 4-year-old funded places

There are 254 providers (66%) in our local authority currently delivering 3 and 4-year-old places:

	Child-minder	Day Nursery	Pre-School	Maintained Nursery School	Independent School	Maintained School	Extended Care
Birkenhead	15	18	1	0	3	22	2
Wallasey	13	13	6	2	0	15	0
South & West	64	33	20	1	1	22	3
Total	92	64	27	3	4	59	5

7. SEND

Childcare providers with SEND provision

The Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice 2014, introduced under this Act, aim to give children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) greater support, choice and opportunities.

The SEND Code of Practice details the responsibilities that councils, early years settings and schools in England have to support children with SEND. All early years childcare providers, such as nurseries and pre-schools, which offer free places to two, three or four year old's must meet the requirements of the SEND Code of Practice, and must be inclusive of children with SEND and have provision available to support them.

In order to prepare families and children for their EYFE Wirral offers Portage, this is a home-visiting educational service for early years children and their families. Referrals can be made into the Portage service, by contacting the Early Years SEND team, there is specific eligibility criteria in order to qualify for this service.

As at January 2020, 52 children were receiving Portage.

Wirral Council offers graduated support to early years providers to ensure inclusion for all children. Providers are supported with quality first teaching to ensure inclusive teaching is at the heart of provision. Providers can then request targeted support to ensure they are meeting a particular child's needs. The Early Years SEND team provide advice and guidance to settings to enable them to support children with additional needs. A request for involvement from the Early Years SEND Team can be made by settings after following the graduated approach, and if the setting SENCO requires further specialist support and advice for a child in their setting.

As at January 2020 our SEND team were supporting 196 children with SEND.

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

Children in receipt of DLA and 3 & 4-year-old funding, are eligible to receive a DAF payment for their setting, to enable the setting to make reasonable adjustments so that a child can access an early year's place. There are currently 108 three-year old's and 129 four-year old's in Wirral receiving DLA.⁴

4 Some three-year old's may be in their last term of receiving two-year-old funding, and some four-year old's may have started in a reception class, or specialist provision so they would not qualify for DAF.

The number of providers awarded DAF for children in our local authority since April 2019 is 29. As children in special schools can not receive DAF, the LA use excess funding to support children with SEND.

Type of provider	Number of children receiving DAF
Day Nurseries / Pre-Schools	20
Schools	9
Total	29

Inclusive Practice Fund (IPF)

IPF is available to ensure the inclusion of children with additional needs in early education/childcare. The Inclusive Practice Fund is intended to support providers with additional staff time, so they can provide inclusive early years childcare. To be eligible for IPF a child must be in receipt of 3 or 4-year-old funding, children in receipt of 2 year old funding attached to DLA are considered. Applications for IPF are assessed at panel meetings scheduled at set times throughout the year.

As at Autumn 2019 the number of children receiving IPF in Wirral was 108.

Type of provider	Number of children receiving IPF at each type of provider
Day Nurseries	63
Extended Care	1
Pre-School's	5
School's	39
Total	108

The settings and schools use the IPF funding to enhance the staffing ratios in the room which means all room staff have a responsibility to support the child with SEND. This also allows the child to select different adults to meet their needs i.e. adult A will understand request for drink but B is good at the interactive chasing games but they use C for the cuddles and reassurance allowing the child choices. The staffing ratios does allow for 1:1 time and small group time where they work on developing delayed skills in all areas of the EYFS with the aim of reducing the gap to their peers development. The impact is the children stay with their peers in an inclusive setting and their skills are progressed by working towards small achievable steps. There is also an impact for the other children in the setting they generally develop an acceptance, understanding and friendship for children with SEND.

The SEND Officers support the SENCOs in settings discussing next steps for the setting to carry out with the child. This information is shared between setting and home. They will support the SENCO with the necessary Local Authority SEND paperwork via training sessions and some individual support. The Officers carry out an initial observation on the child, talk with parents and settings and multi-agency meetings to find the baseline to move on from.

Settings and F1 classes in school can apply for an annual DAF grant for children in receipt of DLA. This has been used for specialist toys, developmentally appropriate toys in an older age group etc.

There has been a limited uptake of this fund so we will be looking at creating an ideas list to support this.

8. Prices

For early years childcare outside the funded entitlements, we report on average prices, reported to us by settings. There may be variations to prices based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for sibling groups. There may be

additional payments for additional services, e.g. lunch and other meals which are not included in these prices.

Average childcare fees at a Day Nursery or Preschool

Provision	Per hour	Per session (Half Day)	Per day
Under 1	£5.83	£27.66	£43.96
Under 3	£6.46	£24.60	£41.35
3+	£6.04	£24.02	£40.38
School Age (Pre and Post School Care)	£4 AM / £8.50 PM		

Average childcare fees with a Childminder

Provision	Per hour	Per session (Half Day)	Per day
Under 1	£4.60	£21.76	£36.23
Under 3	£4.60	£21.76	£36.23
3+	£4.55	£21.60	£36.00
School Age (Pre and Post School Care)	£4.50 AM / £11.57 PM		

Average childcare fees for Extended care

Provision	Breakfast Club	After School Club	Holiday Club	
			Per session (Half Day)	Per day
Under 3	£4.50	£8.00	£22	£32
3+	£4.50	£8.00	£22	£32
School Age (Pre and Post School Care)	£4.88	£9.13	-	-

Since the last sufficiency report prices across the sector look to have increased significantly, with breakfast and after school care increasing by more than £1 per session, day nurseries increasing by more than £2 per day, and childminders by more than £3 per day. For the most part they appear to have increased significantly more than the rate of inflation, however as such a small amount of data was captured and will differ to the providers who supplied data in the 2017/18 report, caution must be taken when comparing the figures.⁵

5 average prices have been calculated using data returned to us from a sufficiency questionnaire published earlier this year, the response rate to this questionnaire was 36% so the above prices only provide stats for some of the childcare market

9. Quality of childcare in our area

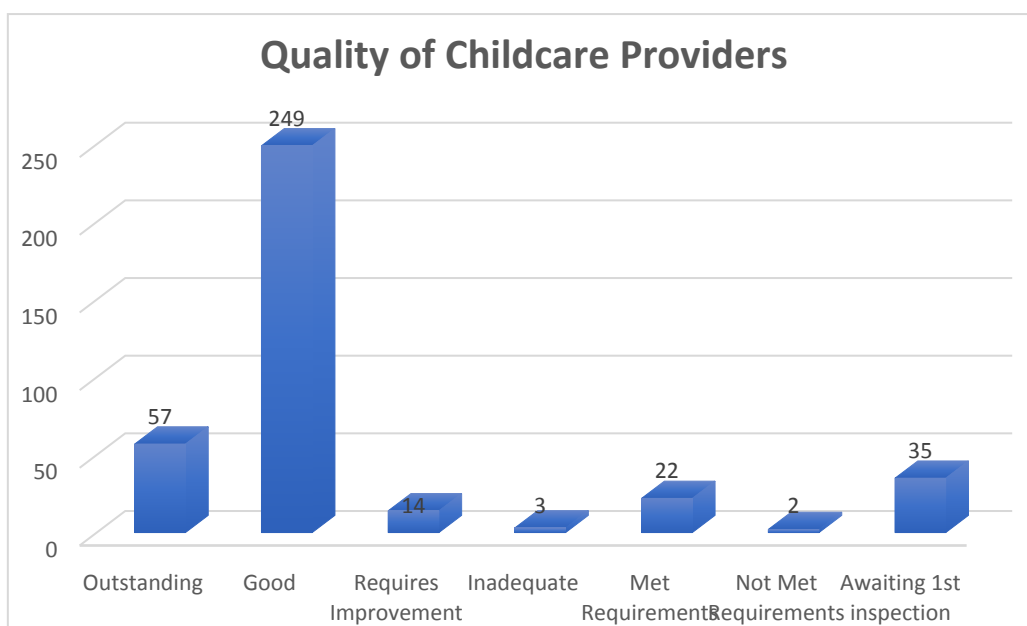
All childcare providers must register with and be inspected by Ofsted, who give them an overall grade for the quality of their provision. Childminders and private and voluntary providers are on the Early Years Register, and schools and standalone maintained nursery

schools are on the Schools Register. The grades for both registers are equivalent. Schools with nurseries have an overall inspection grade for the whole school and most also have a separate early year's grade. Recently the framework for extended care providers has changed, and they now receive a grading of either met or not met.

97.5% of Wirral's providers are judged to be Outstanding, Good or Met, this is an increase from the last sufficiency report. Some providers are awaiting their first inspection⁶

⁶ Providers awaiting their first inspection and those who are maintained have been removed from our calculation

When providers do not have any children on site at the time of their inspection, they are given an Ofsted grade of 'met' or 'not met'. This shows whether they are meeting the requirements for Ofsted registration, and usually happens when new providers are being set up.



Data taken from Ofsted gradings in December 2019

Qualifications

As per the Department for Education's Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, in group settings, the manager must hold at least a full and relevant level 3 qualification and at least half of all other staff must hold at least a full and relevant level 2 qualification. Childminders must have completed training which helps them to understand and implement the EYFS before they can register with Ofsted or a childminder agency.

98% of Wirral's Maintained Providers have a member of staff with a Level 6 Degree or above. 39% of Private, Voluntary & Independent Providers have a member of staff with a Level 6 Degree or above.

Settings with staff with a Level 6 Degree or above receive a quality supplement as part of their funding rate.

10. Parent Views

A parents survey captured their views of the current childcare market, and the accessibility of finding childcare to meet their needs. We also asked parents about their knowledge of early years funding entitlements.

- Over 75% of parents were able to easily find childcare to suit their requirements, with 75% of these agreeing there is suitable holiday provision available.
- 65% of parents surveyed told us that they use informal childcare (i.e., friends and family).
- The majority of parents require childcare all year round, with 23% requiring childcare term time only. Over half of parents surveyed told us that they use Day Nurseries, with 34% using preschools, and 13% using childminders.
- 50% of parents use paid for hours, with 13% of those surveyed using 15 hours of funded hours, and 37% accessing 30 hours of funded hours.
- Almost a quarter of parents sited proximity to work as being the most important factor when considering childcare providers, with the type of provider and type of funding offered being the next most important factors, followed by opening hours, flexibility, then proximity to home.
- 25% of parents told us they are aware of the 2-year-old funding entitlement, whilst 26% of parents are aware of the 3 and 4-year-old funding entitlement, 33% of parents surveyed are aware of the extended funding entitlement for 3- and 4-year old's.
- Less than 10% of parents told us they are aware of the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP).
- Only 5% of parents surveyed said they are aware of the Disability access fund (DAF) and Inclusive practice fund (IPF).

Surveys were collected via Survey Monkey and via questionnaires at Wirral's Children's Centres.

11. Methodology

- **Population data:** has been taken from the Nomis website, and is based on the most recent data available at the time of producing this report
- **Children with EHCP's:** based on data held by our local authority
- **Employment/Profession:** data has been taken from the Nomis website, and is based on the most recent data available at the time of producing this report
- **Supply of childcare providers:** based on data held by our local authority and provided to us by Ofsted, who regulate early years provision in schools and childcare provision.
- **Occupancy:** based on responses to questionnaires returned from providers
- **Vacancies:** based on responses to questionnaires returned from providers
- **Opening hours:** based on responses to questionnaires returned from providers
- **Early years funding entitlements:** national data on eligibility and take up is based on data published by DFE at January 2019. Local data on eligibility and take up is based on the Early Years and School Censuses at October 2019.
- **SEND:** based on data held by our local authority
- **Disability Access Fund:** based on data held by our local authority
- **Inclusive Practice Fund:** based on data held by our local authority
- **Prices of childcare:** based on responses to questionnaires returned from providers
- **Quality of childcare:** data on childcare quality is provided by Ofsted
- **Qualifications:** based on data held by our local authority
- **Parent views:** based on responses to questionnaires sent to parents to complete, via Survey Monkey and via our Children's Centres.

12. Further Information

Contact Details

Family Information Service – FIS@wirral.gov.uk

0151 666 3980

Applying for 2-year funding

To apply for 2-year funding please visit:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare/free-childcare-two-year-olds>

Applying for 3 and 4-year-old funding

To apply for 3 and 4-year-old funding please visit:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

SEND in Early Years (SEND Support, Portage, DAF, IPF)

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send-early-years>

Early Years Pupil Premium

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare/early-years-pupil-premium>

References

Childcare Act 2006:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/21/pdfs/ukpga_20060021_en.pdf

Nomis

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

Children and Families Act 2014

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted>

SEND Code of Practice 2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

Ofsted

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Childcare Support Website

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>