Provision and use of preschool childcare in Britain

Antonia Simon, Charlie Owen and Katie Hollingworth

www.ioe.ac.uk
Policy agenda

- More Great Childcare: Raising quality and giving parents more choice
  - Department for Education (2013)

- Supporting Families in the Foundation Years
  - Department for Education and Department of Health (2011)
Preschool childcare: benefits

- Long term cognitive and emotional benefits for children
  - Effective Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education
  - Cognitive effects associated with trained staff
- ‘Helping families to combine work and care is an essential step in achieving equality by enabling better access to the labour market for women’
Formal childcare and education (England)

Registered with Ofsted (March 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Providers</th>
<th>Places</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childminders</td>
<td>54,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre-based</td>
<td>25,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-based</td>
<td>11,370</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Providers Places

Childminders 54,778 277,422
Centre-based 25,688 1,029,219
Home-based 11,370 *

Early education (January 2012)

Population 0-4 (2011 census):
GB: 3.8m
England: 3.3m

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Percent (3-4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursery schools</td>
<td>342,010</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary schools</td>
<td>404,380</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>50,170</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private/Voluntary</td>
<td>539,190</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Childcare work

- **Standard Occupational Classification (2010)**
  - 612: Childcare and Related Personal Services

- **Concern over training**
  - Nutbrown review of childcare qualifications:
    - ‘Some current qualifications lack rigour and depth, and quality is not consistent.’
Informal childcare

● Usually provided for no pay
● Usually by:
  – family members (particularly grandparents)
  – Friends
● Not all families can make use of informal childcare
● More susceptible to breakdowns
  – Rutter & Evans (2011)
● ‘a continued lack of policy focus on informal childcare’: Wellard (2011)
Pivot generation

- Grandparents
  - Main source of informal childcare
- This group also known to be providing care for elderly, especially parents
  - And in paid employment
  - Pivot generation
Aim: Understand childcare provision and use

- The needs of those using childcare and those providing it have always been considered separately. However, only by examining these together can a full picture of usage and provision be obtained.

- Combine analysis of data on:
  - Parents’ use of childcare
  - Provision of formal childcare and education
  - Childcare workforce
  - Informal childcare
Datasets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work stage</th>
<th>Datasets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childcare usage</td>
<td>Family Resources Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family and Children Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Millennium Cohort Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Understanding Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare provision</td>
<td>Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Labour Force Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Population Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ofsted: Provider registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal childcare</td>
<td>Labour Force Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family Resources Survey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Childcare usage

- Both formal and informal
- Main source: Family Resources Survey
  - Household survey
  - Department of Work and Pensions
  - Over 20,000 households a year
- Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents
  - Department for Education
  - Annual
  - 6,350 parents in 2011/12
FRS: Childcare questions

- DWP: measurements of formal group-based care appear to be underestimated on the FRS
- From 2010, the FRS has adopted the approach used on the Labour Force Survey (LFS) since the LFS was shown to produce more robust estimates
- Some implications for time series
Introduction to Childcare

The next questions are about childcare for your children. This includes all types of childcare, such as playschool or nursery school or a childminder as well as relatives or friends who look after your child(ren).
For each child 0-15

At any time during the seven days ending Sunday the [Date Sunday] did [Child’s name] attend any of the places shown on this card?

1. Playgroup or pre-school? [AGED UNDER 6]
2. Day nursery or workplace crèche? [AGED UNDER 6]
4. Infant's school? [AGED OVER 3 AND UNDER 6]
5. Primary school? [AGED OVER 2 AND UNDER 6]
6. Breakfast/After school club? [AGED OVER 2]
7. Holiday scheme/club?
8. Children's Centres/integrated centres?
9. SPONTANEOUSLY ONLY - Boarding school? [AGED OVER 2]
10. Other provider
And during those seven days (ending Sunday the [DATE]) were there any other people who looked after [Name of child]?

1. Child's grandparents
2. Child's non-resident parent/ex-spouse/ex-partner
3. Child's brother or sister
4. Other relatives
5. Childminder
6. Nanny/Au pair (includes both live-in and day nannies)
7. Friends or neighbours
8. Other non-relatives (Includes babysitters)
9. SPONTANEOUSLY ONLY - Does not require minding
10. None of these
Time in childcare

About how many hours in the seven days ending Sunday the [Date]) did [child’s name] spend in [his/her] [type of childcare]?
Cost of childcare

How much was your most recent payment for the childcare in [child’s name’s] [type of childcare] INCLUDE in the total childcare cost to the parent/guardian any money received via Tax Credits to pay for childcare (e.g. Childcare element of Working Tax Credit).

EXCLUDE payments made by others e.g. grandparents or where payment is made with childcare vouchers unless received as a salary sacrifice.
Types of childcare

Percent

None | One | Two | Three | Four | Five

0  5  10  15  20  25  30  35  40
Mother's Employment Status

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Unemployed
- Not working
Mother's Educational Qualifications

- Degree level
- Below degree
- GCSE
- Other qualifications
- None

Playgroup, Day nursery, Education, Grandparents, Other relatives, Childminder/Nanny, Other non-relatives
Collaborators

- Family and Childcare Trust
  - Voluntary sector
- National Day Nursery Association
  - Providers’ association
- Advisory committee
  - Department for Work and Pensions
  - Training Agency (Department for Education)
  - Preschool Learning Alliance
  - Grandparents Plus