

# PACEY's childminder survey Autumn 2024



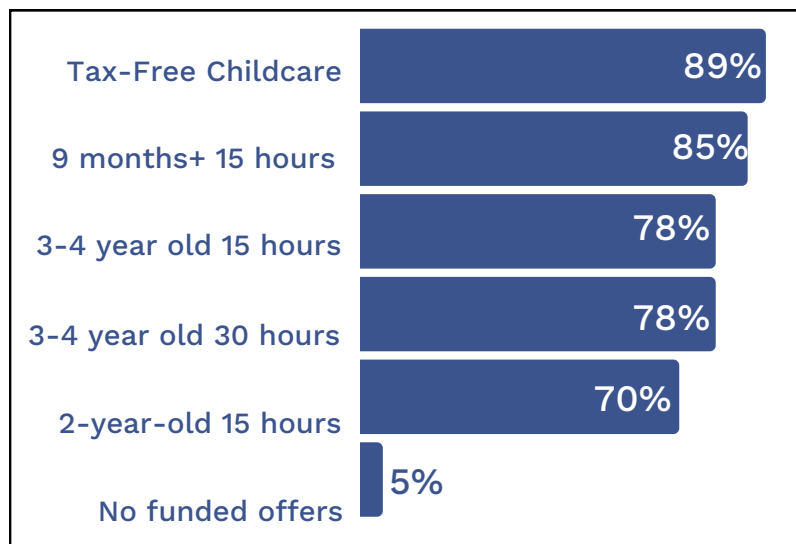
Professional  
Association for  
Childcare and  
Early Years

PACEY's autumn survey of childminders in England asked about the expansion in funding, business confidence and the national wraparound programme.

**Thank you to almost 450 childminders who took part.**

## Funded entitlements

95% of childminder respondents offer some kind of government-funded childcare support, most commonly through Tax-Free Childcare (89%) and the new funding for 9 months to two years, which came into place from September 2024 (85%). This is likely due to the higher funding rates for the new offers, leaving childminders less incentivised to offer the hours for 3-4 year-olds and 2-year-olds whose families are receiving a form of government support.



## How has the expanded offer for children aged 9 months+ affected your business?



**50%**

Very positive  
or positive



**40%**

Neutral



**10%**

Negative or  
very negative

## Childminder experiences

“It’s been a very positive experience for our business. The funded rates are great for 9 months to 2 years. However the 3-4 year old rates are far below our hourly rate.”

“I only have 1 child on my books but before the funding I had 4, due to recently opened nurseries in my area offering the new funding. If this continues, I cannot see myself having a business in the new year, which is devastating as I've been childminding for 16 years”

## Since the September 2024 funding expansion...

**68%**

have had to turn away prospective parents due to having no vacancies

**69%**

have been able to fill all their spaces

**64%**

Said families have been able to access the days and hours they need

**27%**

have increased their fees

**23%**

have introduced or increased a consumables charge

**6%**

have limited their availability for funded provision

**53%**

feel positive about the September 2025 expansion to 30 hours for eligible children aged 9 months+

**66%**

feel confident their business will continue until September 2025 (53% confident their business will continue after September 2025)

Overall, the picture is positive, but not for everyone: **20%** childminders were not able to fill their places this term and **12%** are not confident their business will continue for another year.

**“I have already got next year's intake already booked in for September 2025 and have a waiting list for September 2026. There is currently not enough childcare space within the area!”**

## Local authorities

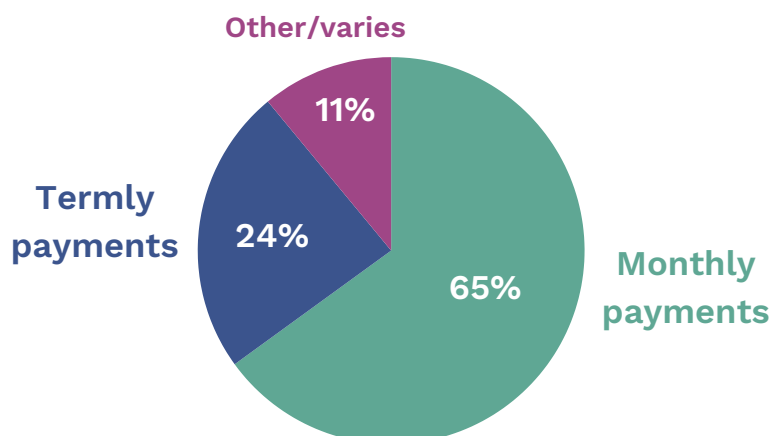
**How proactive would you rate your local authority in terms of communication, policy updates and support?**

**56%** Very proactive

**34%** Somewhat proactive

**11%** Not proactive

Less than two-thirds (65%) childminders receive monthly payments from their local authority. We know that this can make it difficult for childminders to manage your cashflow and budget to protect against changing circumstances.



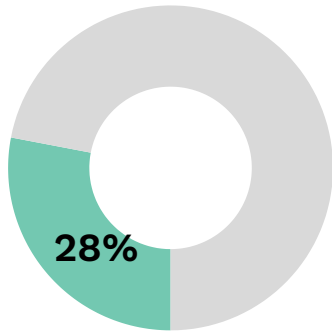
[Read more about our calls on local authorities in our Manifesto for Childminders.](#)

# Wraparound provision

**70%** of respondents provide wraparound provision



Of the 235 childminders who offer before-school provision, two-thirds provide breakfast (66%)



While 71% of childminders were aware of the new government-funded **National Wraparound Childcare programme**, only 28% had been contracted specifically about the programme by their Local Authority.



Despite childminders being included in the programme, **just two** childminders had received some form of funding (Shropshire and Portsmouth)



**28%**

of respondents said they have a relationship with local schools and/or early education settings in their area to support with wraparound provision.

**PACEY is urging our childminder members to be the proactive party in terms of approaching your local authority, schools and other settings regarding your involvement in the National Wraparound Childcare Programme and the recently announced flexibilities that allow you to operate in non-domestic premises for a greater proportion of time.**

## Issues with the programme

Childminders reported the programme being **“too schools-focused”** and offering limited provision: **“Families in my area need provision before 8am which isn’t available in schools”** and many face competition with the cheaper school-based offers: **“For the first time in 10 years I have had no interest in wraparound from prospective parents”**

## Childminders flagged barriers around morale

**“Childminders are professionals, yet fees are minimum wage, we work long hours, provide for local families and our own families amidst high living costs”**

## Many called for reform of the unfair rule preventing relatives from providing funding

**“My grandchildren are now having to find childcare in a different setting, taking up spaces which could go to others in need and unsettling them.”**

Read more about this unfair rule in our [Manifesto for Childminders](#).