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Department
for Education

In September 2017, the government will introduce [30 hours of funded childcare](#) for working parents with 3- and 4- year-olds. It will be more important than ever that providers have good business skills and respond to the needs of parents.

Our [review of childcare costs](#) shows that there is scope for some providers to improve their business practices in order to develop and grow their businesses and respond to increasing demand.

We understand that offering accessible and high-quality childcare is what early years providers do. Improving business performance won't distract from this. In fact, it will allow providers to invest more in the things that make the biggest difference to high-quality early years services for children and their parents.

We want to support early years providers of all sizes to build sustainable and successful businesses and - if they wish to provide the 30 hours of publicly funded childcare – give them the business support they need.

Insights from successful early years providers

With the help of successful providers, we have developed a series of [insights into business sustainability](#).

We're also providing further useful resources, including:

- information on [sources of income available to providers](#), including clarification on charging parents for additional items and services, and sources of additional funding
- a [directory of childcare business support consultants and software tools](#) to provide further support to those that need it
- a series of [childcare provider case studies](#) - we spoke to a range of providers about the challenges their businesses have faced, and the ideas and schemes they have put in place to be sustainable

Childcare Works

In November 2016 the Department for Education appointed [Childcare Works](#), a consortium made up of [Mott MacDonald](#), [Hempall's](#) and [Action for Children](#) to help provide 30 hours childcare for working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds. Childcare Works will work closely with local authorities and providers to make sure they have the tools and knowledge to create and maintain sustainable business models.

The programme includes:

- collecting and sharing examples of good practice through group workshops, [online resources](#) and practitioner networks
- training providers in business remodelling, business planning and working flexibly and sustainably
- running progress reviews with local authorities to identify specific business support needs, examine developments and identify actions

Future resources

The [Department for Education has awarded grants](#) to the National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) and the Professional Association of Childcare and Early Years (PACEY) to develop new business sustainability resources for childcare providers.

Nurseries

The NDNA Early Years Business Zone will be a new web-based resource for nurseries, due to go live in summer 2017. It will bring together good practice in business planning from across England alongside new tools and resources, to provide specialist support for nurseries.

Childminders

The PACEY Early Years Education Childminding Project will support new and established childminders to assess their business sustainability, and look at whether they could expand their provision of funded childcare. A new, free online business toolkit, developed by childminders for childminders, will be available in Summer 2017.

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