



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Scottish Household Survey
Analytical Topic Report 2006:
Childcare Module

Education





SCOTTISH HOUSEHOLD SURVEY ANALYTICAL TOPIC REPORT 2006: CHILDCARE MODULE

TNS System Three Social Research

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This report is accompanied by "**Research Findings No. 18: Scottish Household Survey Analytical Topic Report 2006: Childcare Module**".

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Foreword

The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) is a major survey of the people of Scotland. It was first conducted in 1999, on behalf of the Scottish Executive, and has been conducted on a continual basis since. Complete and simplified datasets are available to the general public from the UK Data Archive. This survey provides information on the composition, characteristics and behaviour of Scottish households, both nationally and at local authority level.

The main findings from the survey are reported in the SHS Annual Reports and other Scottish Executive publications. More information on the SHS, and outputs from the SHS are available online from the Scottish Household Survey website (www.scotland.gov.uk/shs).

This report is part of a series of Analytical Reports which demonstrate how more detailed use may be made of SHS data. These reports:

- provide in-depth analysis of particular topics;
- focus on the results which are relevant to particular policy issues; and
- look at the SHS results in the context of information available from other sources.

Each Analytical Report concentrates on a single policy-related topic, and has been prepared by one or more experts. Further information on other titles in this series of reports is available from the Scottish Household Survey website.

This report has been overseen by the Information and Analytical Services Division, Education Department. We would like to extend our thanks to Tom Lamplugh for his project management of this report.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

1 This report covers the analysis of the childcare module of the Scottish Household Survey. The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) is a continuous survey based on a sample of the general population in private residences in Scotland. Since 1999, the survey has provided representative information on the composition, characteristics and behaviour of Scottish households, both nationally and at a more local level. The survey covers a wide range of topics including transport, social justice and housing. The childcare module was added in April 2003 and covers various issues related to childcare such as details of childcare arrangements and satisfaction with childcare. The analyses in the report look at differences in childcare arrangements, satisfaction with childcare and reasons for using childcare in relation to demographic characteristics of households and examines whether satisfaction with childcare varies with the type of childcare provider used.

Summary of findings

2 Forty five percent of all children were in receipt of some kind of childcare. Informal childcare was much more commonly used than formal care with the overall most common type being care provided by a relative.

3 Overall predictors of use of any kind of childcare were area¹ household type, household working status, gender of highest income householder, annual household income, age of child and access to a car.

- *Area:* children living in the Central, Edinburgh and North Lanarkshire areas were particularly likely to be in receipt of childcare.
- *Household type:* children from single parent families were particularly likely to be in receipt of childcare, whereas those from large families were less likely.
- *Working status of parents/guardians:* use of childcare was more common among working parents.
- *Gender of highest income householder:* households where the highest income householder was female, mainly single parent families, were more likely to use childcare.
- *Household income:* use of childcare was most likely in the highest income households.
- *Age of child:* use of childcare was more common in households with children aged 1-4 years compared with those containing older children.
- *Access to car:* although most families did have access to cars, those who did not have access to a car were slightly less likely than those who did have access to a car to use childcare.

¹ See page 7 for details of areas

4 Regression analysis indicated some key indicators of the use of particular types of childcare as outlined below.

- *Informal childcare only*: certain geographical areas (for example North Lanarkshire), minority ethnic children, lower income households, older children, parents not using childcare for work, study or child's development.
- *Formal childcare only*: certain geographical areas (for example Glasgow and Edinburgh), single parent families and families with 1-2 children, younger children, and higher income households.
- *Nursery or playgroup* – clearly, the age of child was the strongest indicator here as such organisations are aimed at children up to the age of five years. Nurseries or playgroups were more commonly used by working parents than non-working parents. Parental reasons given for using childcare were also predictors of use of this type of childcare, with use being most likely by those who reported using childcare for their child's development.
- *Out of School Care* – key predictors of the use of such childcare were area (Glasgow and Edinburgh), household type (with single parents most likely to use Out of School Care), income (higher incomes) and age of child (more common where child is aged over 11 years). Parents who used childcare for their child's development or to study or study more were also more likely to use OSC.

5 For some types of childcare, none of the factors were found to be significant predictors of use. However, some patterns emerged by demographic factors and by reasons for using childcare.

- *Registered childminder* – use of a registered childminder was more common among working couple households, higher income households and those with children aged less than 11 years old.
- *Friend of parent or guardian* – was more common in rural than urban areas, most common for children between 5 and 11 years of age (perhaps indicating the use of friends for pre- and post-school care) and used more by single working adults than by other household types.
- *Relative* - this was the most common type of informal childcare, with 28% of children being cared for by relatives. This type of childcare was more common among working households, particularly single working parents.

Reasons for using childcare

6 The reasons why parents use childcare have important implications for labour market participation. Previous research indicated that over a half of parents chose a particular childcare provider in order to enable them to go out to work. Analysis of the SHS indicated that by far the most common single reason for using childcare was 'to enable self/partner to work.'

7 The extent to which parents used childcare in order to enable themselves or their partners to work varied by the age of the child and the working and household status of the parents – more common among parents of children aged over four years old than parents of

younger children. This was also more common among working parents, particularly households containing only one working adult.

8 There were some key differences relating to reasons for using childcare by household demographics and by type of childcare provider. For example, the most common reason for using a registered childminder was to enable self or partner to work (or work more/earn more) while the most common reason for playgroup or nursery care was for the child's development.

Key issues

9 The Scottish Executive has several specific aims in relation to the improvement of childcare provision as outlined in the Childcare Strategy and 'A Partnership for a better Scotland'. Below is a summary of results from the SHS relating to each of the areas identified as key.

Quality

10 Parents indicated high levels of satisfaction with the quality of care provided by their childcare provider; 68% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement, 'I am satisfied with the quality of care provided by my childcare provider' and a further 27% tended to agree, with only 2% of respondents disagreeing that they were satisfied. There were no significant differences in satisfaction levels across different childcare providers, with less than 3% of parents being dissatisfied with any childcare provider. The reasons significant in differentiating how satisfied parents were with their childcare included: whether it was difficult for them to get to the childcare they used; whether the childcare met the needs of their child; and whether the times of childcare were convenient. There were minor differences in relation to satisfaction by some household characteristics, with parents from working couple households being the most satisfied and parents in rural areas being more satisfied than those in urban areas.

Flexibility

11 Although there is no direct data relating to flexibility, a useful proxy is whether parents felt that the current care met the needs of their child. There were high levels of agreement with the statement '*The childcare I use meets the needs of my child*' (94%) with no significant variations in relation to different childcare providers.

Availability

11 This is more difficult to assess as the SHS does not provide data on families who, for whatever reason, have been unable to access suitable childcare (as the questions were asked only of those using childcare). However, around a fifth of parents disagreed with the statement '*It was easy to get a place in the childcare that I use for my child*' suggesting that a significant minority had some difficulty finding suitable childcare for their children and that this is probably an underestimation of the problem.

Affordability

12 Levels of agreement with the statement '*Given my family income, I find it hard to pay for the childcare that I use*' provide an indication of the affordability of childcare for different families. Overall, a quarter of households agreed with this statement (10% strongly agreed and 15% tended to agree) suggesting that the cost of childcare did represent a problem for many families. Around 1 in 5 (19%) of parents who used informal childcare reported that they paid for this care, particularly in households with higher annual incomes. It must be noted that no information is available in the SHS to indicate the number of households who use no childcare or informal rather than formal care owing to financial difficulties.

Accessibility

13 In the SHS, parents were asked for their levels of agreement with the statement: '*It is difficult for me to get to the childcare that I use*'. Overall, 12% of parents agreed with this statement. There were some minor differences in terms of the childcare provider, with 14% of parents using nursery/playgroups or other childcare arrangements agreeing with this statement compared with 9% using before school care.

Ease of information availability

14 Parents were asked how much they agree with the statement: '*It is difficult to find out what childcare is available around here*'. Almost a third of parents (31%) agreed with this statement, indicating that parents could benefit from increased information on childcare services and options within their area. There were no significant differences in terms of childcare provider. However, difficulties were more commonly reported among non-working single parents and those living in social rented accommodation.

CHAPTER ONE BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) is a continuous survey based on a sample of the general population in private residences in Scotland. Since 1999, the survey has provided representative information on the composition, characteristics and behaviour of Scottish households, both nationally and at a more local level. The survey covers a wide range of topics including transport, social justice and housing. The childcare module was added in April 2003 and covers various issues related to childcare including details of childcare arrangements, reasons for using childcare and satisfaction. Details of specific questions are included in Appendix 1.

Background

1.2 Childcare has long been on the political agenda in Scotland. It is recognised as an important and complex issue that requires constant monitoring and evaluation in order to improve the quality of affordable and accessible childcare available to all parents. A previous report commissioned by the Scottish Executive and conducted by TNS System Three on parental access and demand for childcare (2003)² summarised the complexity of childcare provision as follows:

“Patterns of childcare are complex because choices are made in the context of parents’ circumstances – their household structure, working status, age of their child/ren, the types of childcare available to them in their local area and the ease of access to and costs of different types of provision. Underlying all of these factors are personal preferences such as whether to use formal or informal childcare providers”.

1.3 The Scottish Executive has long expressed their commitment to providing good quality and affordable childcare, recognised in their strategy on supporting families. In 1998, the Green Paper, *Meeting the Childcare Challenge: A Childcare Strategy for Scotland*³ identified three main aims:

- Raising the quality of care;
- Making childcare more affordable and available;
- Making childcare more accessible by increasing places and improving information.

1.4 The Green Paper was followed up with the Childcare Strategy, which has at its core the aim of providing good quality, affordable and accessible childcare. A key component of the Strategy is the provision of Out of School Care (OSC). Childcare is believed to have both social and economic benefits for parents and children: parents are able to participate in work and/or training, while children are offered play, social and educational opportunities. Employers also benefit through having access to a wider workforce and increased levels of staff retention.

² <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/padcs.pdf>

³ *Meeting the Childcare Challenge: A Childcare Strategy for Scotland* (May 1998) Scottish Office

1.5 OSC was developed through the School's Out framework⁴, the aim of which is "to promote and achieve better services for children and their families, including those who are vulnerable or deprived". This also includes working families, regardless of their economic or social circumstances. However, there were some concerns about the sustainability of OSC, which prompted the Scottish Executive to commission research examining existing models of childcare provision⁵. This research indicated that "the greatest overall positive impact seems to be where OSC is directly provided by a local authority". Among the benefits cited are access to council resources and staff, economies of scale, and use of existing local authority systems, procedures and policies. Against this background, School's Out made recommendations to local authorities and local enterprise companies regarding the development and sustainability of OSC services, and gave examples of good practice.

1.6 In the light of the policy developments on childcare discussed above (specifically those of the late 1990s) the Scottish Executive recognised that there was a need to review existing arrangements for childcare across the country, with a view to assessing the level of demand for childcare from parents and identifying where there may be unmet needs. In 1999, they commissioned the National Centre for Social Research to conduct the *Parents' Demand for Childcare Survey*⁶. This Scottish study was preceded and followed by similar studies in England, and repeated in 2003 by TNS.

1.7 The results of both studies revealed an overall preference for informal rather than formal childcare. Parents tended to rely on children's grandparents when they were unable to provide full-time care. The main reasons for the reliance of informal care were trust and cost.

1.8 More recently, the Scottish Executive's plans for the 2003-2007 Parliamentary Session were detailed in the document: "*A Partnership for a Better Scotland*". The main aims of this document relevant to childcare are:

- Provision of more flexible and available childcare;
- Creating flexible childcare provision that is accessible to all;
- Maintaining free nursery provision for every three and four year old in Scotland;
- Providing childcare support in areas of high unemployment;

1.9 TNS System Three Social Research was commissioned to provide statistical analysis of all questions in the Scottish Household Survey childcare module in order to inform the development of the Scottish Executive policy on childcare and related issues.

Data and analyses

1.10 The analyses in this report are based on data collected from 30,822 householder interviews in the 2003/2004 Scottish Household Survey. The childcare arrangement questions were asked for all dependent children in each household with children and the questions on attitudes to childcare and reasons for using childcare were asked about one child

⁴ School's Out Framework for the Development of Out-of-School Care (2003) The Scottish Executive

⁵ 'Provision of Out of School Care (OSC) Management Models and Business Planning', (Feb 2003) Blake Stevenson Ltd

⁶ www.scotland.gov.uk/hmis/Pdf/ers/parents_demand.pdf

in the household (selected at random in households where there was more than one child). The full text of the questions can be found in Appendix 1.

1.11 Previous research indicated that the age of the child, household and employment structure, household income, and the number of children in the household were significant factors associated with childcare provision, with age of child being most significant. The factors found to be associated with the choice between formal childcare (for example the use of childminders or nursery) and informal childcare (such as care by friends or relatives) were more numerous but the strongest factors were the age of child, number of childcare providers, and use of childcare at weekends⁷.

1.12 Within the SHS the demographic factors chosen for this analysis were household type, household income, household working status, household socio-economic status, gender of highest income householder, area of residence (local authority group), urban/rural classification, car ownership and age of child. In order to investigate the most significant factors associated with childcare within the SHS data, the statistical technique *logistic regression* was performed on the data. This was also the technique used in previous research. Logistic regression models provide a good way to examine how various factors influence a *binary outcome*. In this case the ‘binary outcome’ is whether or not a child received childcare. By using this method, it is possible to determine which factors predict the use of childcare when the other factors are taken account of. In this case, it was used to see which particular demographic characteristics were most associated with the use of childcare, and also to examine whether particular demographic characteristics and particular reasons for using childcare predicted the use of different types of childcare. This is useful in terms of developing policy in relation to provision as it is clear that parents in different situations require different childcare options and in some cases, need to draw on a range of different sources to provide overall care. Further details of the analysis method can be found in Appendix 2.

Definitions of demographic variables used in the analyses

Household type

Single parent – 1 adult of any age and 1 or more children

Small family – 2 adults of any age and 1 or 2 children

Large family – 2 adults of any age and 3 or more children

Area (local authority group)

For the purposes of the analyses in this report, local authorities were grouped as follows. These grouping are also used in the Scottish Household Survey.

Highlands and Islands – Highland, Moray, Eilean Siar, Argyll & Bute, Orkney and Shetland

Grampian – City of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire

Tayside – Angus, Dundee City, Perth, Kinross

Central – Stirling, Clackmannanshire, Falkirk

⁷ op cit National Centre 2000

Dunbartonshire – West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire
Renfrewshire and Inverclyde – East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire, Inverclyde
Ayrshire – South, East and North Ayrshire
Lothians – West Lothian, East Lothian, Midlothian
Southern Scotland – Scottish Borders, Dumfries & Galloway
City of Edinburgh
City of Glasgow
Fife
North Lanarkshire
South Lanarkshire

Urban/rural classification

Large urban area – city conurbations, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee (125,000 population and over)

Other urban areas – settlements of 10,000 to 124,999 people

Accessible small towns – settlements between 3,000 and 9,999 people and within 30 minutes drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more

Remote small towns – between 3,000 and 9,999 people with a drive time of more than 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more

Accessible rural – less than 3,000 people and within 30 minutes drive to a settlement of 10,000 or more

Remote rural – less than 3,000 people with a drive time of more than 30 minutes to a settlement of 3,000 or more

Structure of the report

1.13 Chapter 2 discusses the key predictors of childcare use by demographic variables. Chapter 3 examines predictors of formal and informal childcare and Chapter 4 goes into more detail of particular types of childcare. Chapter 5 discusses the reasons parents have for using childcare. Chapter 6 examines parental satisfaction with childcare and parents' views on the accessibility, convenience and affordability of childcare. Within the chapters, the results of the logistic regression analyses are summarised in tables listing the demographic factors and reasons for using childcare most associated with the type of childcare being discussed. The full results of the analyses can be found in the tables in Appendix 2.

1.14 Where possible, comparisons are made with two previous major studies of childcare use in Scotland undertaken by the National Centre for Social Research in 2001 and by TNS System Three Social Research (then NFO System Three) and DTZ Pida in 2004. However, it must be noted that both these studies focused on children aged up to 14 years whilst this analysis of the SHS includes children aged up to 16. This means some of the figures are not directly comparable. It should also be noted that the SHS exists to provide information on a whole range of important issues and was not specifically designed to consider patterns of childcare in great detail. There are, therefore, some areas not covered in the SHS, for example the times of day and days of the week on which childcare was accessed.

CHAPTER TWO USE OF AND PREDICTORS OF CHILDCARE

Introduction

2.1 Overall the SHS found that a quarter of households in Scotland contained children, with most of these containing one or two children. Of the households containing children, 53% were small families (two adults and one or two children), 25% were large families (two adults and three or more children) and 22% were single parent households. Furthermore, presence of children in a household appeared to be strongly related to the labour market participation of women; 48% of women in households without children worked full-time compared with 26% of women in households with children. A third (32%) of women in households with children worked part-time compared with 17% in households without children. Although an element of these differences reflects life-style choices and different views on the best way of caring for children, it further demonstrates the key role of childcare in relation to women's labour market participation and the importance of childcare to society and the economy in Scotland.

Types of childcare providers used

2.2 The following table displays the overall proportion of children being provided with childcare by each type of provider. As previously described, this particular information was collected for each child in the household, and so the base for all the tables in this section is all children aged between 1 and 16.

Table 2.1: Proportion of children being cared for by childcare providers

Base: All children = 11,517

Any type of childcare	45%
Relative or partner	28%
Nursery or playgroup	10%
Friend	7%
After school care	5%
Registered childminder	4%
Holiday club	2%
Other arrangement	2%
Before school care	1%
None	55%

Notes to table:

Parents could indicate more than one type of childcare for each child or none at all, so percentages do not add up to 100

Source: SHS 2003/2004

2.3 Just under half (45%) of all children aged up to 16 years old were provided with childcare while the remaining 55% were not in receipt of any type of childcare. It was most

common for children to be cared for by relatives; just over a quarter (28%) of all children aged 1 to 16 had this type of care. The most commonly reported type of formal childcare was nursery or playgroup (10%), presumably due to the free nursery places offered to children aged 3 and 4 years old. The table also indicates that informal childcare was more commonly used than formal childcare. This will be discussed in more detail in Chapter 3.

Demographic factors predicting the use of childcare

2.4 The following demographic factors predicted the use of any childcare: area where family lived; household working status, gender of highest income householder, household type; household income, age of child and car access. Table 2.2 displays a profile of the children most and least likely to be in receipt of childcare. Tables showing the full analysis results can be found in Appendix 2

Table 2.2: Profile of children and households most likely to receive childcare

	Children most likely to receive childcare	Children least likely to receive childcare
Area	Central, Edinburgh, North Lanarkshire Dunbartonshire, Grampian, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde	Highlands and Islands
Household working status	Single working adult	Couples where one adult worked Couples where neither adult worked Non working single
Gender of Highest Income Householder	Female	Male
Household type	Single parent	Large family
Household income	Highest income households (over £40,000 p.a)	Lower income households (up to £25,000 p.a.)
Age of child	Children aged 1-4	Children aged between 12-16
Car access	Yes	No

Source: SHS 2003/2004

Children receiving childcare

2.5 The results indicate that children living in the Central, Edinburgh and North Lanarkshire regions were particularly likely to be in receipt of childcare. For example, 54% of children in Central, 53% in Edinburgh, and 48% in North Lanarkshire were in receipt of childcare compared with 39% in Highlands and Islands.

2.6 Working status of the adults in the household was strongly related to the use of childcare. Of those children receiving childcare, 90% came from households where at least one person worked and children from single working adult households were the most likely to receive childcare; 61% of children from single working adult households and 55% from working couple households received childcare. These findings are closely linked to the finding that children from households where the female was the highest income householder were more likely to receive childcare.

2.7 Children from the highest income households were the most likely to receive childcare, with 57% of children from households with an annual income of over £40,000

receiving childcare compared with, for example, 37% of children in households with an annual income of £10,000 – £15,000.

2.8 As expected, the age of the child was extremely significant in predicting whether children would be in receipt of childcare. Children aged between 1 and 4 years old were significantly more likely than children in the older age groups to be receiving some form of childcare. Two thirds of children (66%) aged between 1 and 4 years old received childcare. However, in the 5-11 age group, the differences were less pronounced; 48% of those aged 5-11 years old received childcare and 52% did not.

Children not receiving childcare

2.9 Overall, less than half (48%) of the children living in single parent households received childcare and within non-working single parent households 29% of children received childcare. Previous research has indicated that lone parents in particular appear to experience problems in their access and demand for childcare, such as more unmet demand and reduced childcare options, due to the cost involved. Demand for childcare in lone parent households can be high, as these parents cannot rely on partners to share childcare responsibilities.

2.10 Children from couple households where at least one adult did not work were less likely to receive childcare than couple households where both adults worked. Over half (58%) of children in households where both parents worked received childcare, compared with less than a third of children (31%) from couple households where only one adult worked and 19% of children from non-working couple households. Presumably, these types of households include a parent who provided the full time childcare for their children. In a related vein, households on smaller incomes were less likely to receive childcare, for example 40% of children from households with an annual income of between £15,001 and £20,000 compared with 57% of households with an annual income of over £40,000.

2.11 As mentioned previously, and as has been found in previous research, older children were less likely to be in receipt of childcare. The present results indicate that only 23% of children aged between 12 and 16 years old received childcare and that, overall, only 14% of children receiving childcare were from this age group.

2.12 The results also indicate that the more children there were in the household, the less it was likely that those children would be in receipt of childcare; only a third of children living in large families receive childcare, a lower proportion than children living in other types of household. This variable is linked to the age of the child, as households with a greater number of children were more likely to include older children who were less likely to be in receipt of childcare. This may also be linked to the cost involved in providing childcare for a greater number of children.

2.13 Although most households had access to a car, a lower proportion of those who did not have cars reported that they used childcare; 76% of households without access to a car compared with 85% of households with access to a car.

Summary

2.14 The extreme importance of the use and availability of childcare is demonstrated by the fact that almost half of all children between 1 and 16 years old receive some kind of childcare. As might be expected, childcare appears to be more important for younger children; almost two-thirds of children aged up to the age of 4 received some kind of childcare.

2.15 Key predictors of the use of any type of childcare were area, household type, household income, household working status, sex of highest income householder, age of child and access to car.

- *Area:* children living in Central, Edinburgh and North Lanarkshire were particularly likely to be in receipt of childcare.
- *Household type:* children from single parent families were particularly likely to be in receipt of childcare, whereas those from large families were less likely.
- *Working status of parents/guardians:* use of childcare was more common among working parents.
- *Gender of highest income householder:* household where the highest income householder was female, mainly single parent families, were more likely to use childcare.
- *Household Income:* use of childcare was most likely in the highest income households.
- *Age of child:* use of childcare was more common in households with children aged 1-4 years compared with those containing older children.
- *Access to car:* although most families did have access to cars, those who did not have access to a car were slightly less likely than those who did have access to a car to use childcare.

2.16 Demographic factors which were not predictors of the use of childcare were ethnicity, urban/rural classification and socio-economic status of the highest income householder.

CHAPTER THREE FORMAL AND INFORMAL CHILDCARE

Introduction

3.1 An important and common distinction between childcare providers is that of formal versus informal childcare. In the current research, formal childcare was defined as registered childminders, nurseries or playgroups, before-school care, after-school care and holiday clubs. Informal childcare was defined as parents' friends, relatives or grandparents, and other arrangements such as non-registered childminders, baby-sitters, and au-pairs. The two previous parental demand surveys both found that informal childcare was more commonly used than formal childcare due to affordability and trust issues. In fact, grandparents were the most commonly used provider. However, recent statistics indicate that formal childcare increased by 7% between 2003 and 2004⁸.

3.2 The use of formal versus informal childcare has important implications in terms of the costs involved in childcare and the uptake of working families' tax credit. Recent statistics also indicated that 28,500 families were in receipt of the childcare element of working tax credit (average = £46.12 a week). However, this benefit is awarded to help pay for formal childcare only.

3.3 The proportion of children in receipt of formal childcare *only*, informal childcare *only*, and a mixture of both formal and informal childcare broken down by various demographic characteristics is displayed in Table 5 of Appendix 2. Overall, 14% of children who received any childcare received both informal and formal childcare, 28% received formal childcare only and 58% received informal childcare only.

Predictors of children receiving informal childcare only

3.4 A number of demographic factors were significant in terms of predicting whether children receiving childcare would receive informal childcare only; area of residence, ethnicity, household working status, household income, age of child, number of dependent children and reasons for using childcare. Details of this analysis can be found in Table 3 of Appendix 2 and the results are summarised and discussed overleaf.

⁸ Pre-school and Childcare Statistics 2004, Scottish Executive
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00346-00.asp>

Table 3.1: Profile of children and households receiving only informal childcare

	Children most likely to receive informal childcare only	Children less likely to receive informal childcare only
Area	North Lanarkshire	Edinburgh, Glasgow
Ethnicity	White Scottish Any other ethnic background	Other White
Household working status	Non-working single adults	Single working adult
Income	Lower income households (e.g. £10,001 - £15,000 pa)	Higher income households (i.e. over £40,000 pa)
Age of child	Children aged 12-16	Children aged 1-4
Number of dependent children	Households with greater number of children	Households with one child
Reasons for using childcare	To give more time to go other things	To enable self/partner to work For child's development To study/study more

Source: SHS 2003/2004

3.5 The findings indicate that there were differences between areas in Scotland as to whether children were more or less likely to receive informal childcare only. In particular, children living in North Lanarkshire were more likely than children elsewhere to receive informal childcare only; 74% of children receiving any type of childcare in North Lanarkshire received informal childcare only compared with 50% in Glasgow and 53% in Edinburgh. This may indicate a greater supply of childcare in these areas, and so parents have more options for sending their children to formal childcare. The Scottish Executive Childcare Statistics for 2005⁹ showed that in Edinburgh there were 472 childcare centres serving an estimated 8,167 children aged 3 - 4, while in North Lanarkshire there were 211 for an estimated population of 7,408 children in this age group.

3.6 There were also differences by ethnicity; 84% of children from ethnic minority backgrounds who received childcare received informal childcare only. This result is as expected, as previous research has indicated that parents from minority ethnic groups experience language and cultural difficulties when considering formal childcare options such as nurseries and playgroups. However, there was also a difference between 'White – Scottish' and 'White - other' in that 59% of families who classified themselves as 'White Scottish' used informal childcare only compared with 50% of those with a 'White-other' classification. This could be that the latter group have moved to Scotland and do not have the informal support of family to share in childcare.

3.7 There was a general trend that as household income increased it was less likely that children would be in receipt of informal childcare only. For example, children from households with an income of between £10,001 and £15,000 were the most likely to receive only informal childcare; 66% as compared with 50% of children from families with an annual household income of over £40,000.

3.8 Previous research has indicated that the age of the child differentiates whether parents use formal or informal childcare. For example, for 0-4 year olds, informal childcare (particularly grandparents) was used most frequently, although this trend appeared to be on

⁹ Pre-school and Childcare Statistics 2005. Scottish Executive 2005
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/55971/0016153.pdf>

the decrease (55% in 2000 to 32% in 2003). For 5-11 year olds, babysitters were the most common providers in 2003 (perhaps reflecting the time of day that childcare is most needed) and for 12-14 year olds, again grandparents were the most common¹⁰.

3.9 Findings from the current analyses show that older children were more likely than younger children to receive informal childcare only. Almost all (92%) of the children aged between 12 and 16 who received any childcare received informal childcare only. This finding supports previous evidence that the use of formal childcare among older children is very limited. The results also reveal that informal childcare was very common among the 5 to 11 age group; 66% of children in this age group received informal childcare only. Younger children were less likely to receive informal childcare only; only around a third (34%) of children aged between 1 and 4 years old received informal childcare only. This may be due to the high proportion of younger children attending pre-school education, and the fact that younger children receive more and different types of childcare than older children.

3.10 In general, the more children in the household, the more likely it was that these children received informal childcare only. For example, 70% of children from households with four children received informal childcare only compared with 52% of children from one child households.

3.11 Children receiving informal childcare only were more likely to have parents using childcare to give them time to do other things. This would be as expected, as parents may utilise informal childcare options (such as babysitters) to give them some time to socialise etc. Children receiving informal childcare only were less likely to have parents using childcare for work reasons, to enable them to study/study more and, particularly, using childcare for the child's development.

3.12 Children from single working adult households were less likely to receive informal childcare only; 57% of children from single working adult households compared with 68% of children from non-working single adult households. This may be as these households have a greater need for childcare (due to a lack of a partner to share childcare duties) and so have to utilise both formal and informal options.

Predictors of children receiving formal childcare only

3.13 As was found with children receiving informal childcare only, several demographic factors were significant predictors of whether children who received childcare received this through formal childcare only. These were area, family type and age of child. For this type of childcare, the reasons that parents gave for using childcare were also a predictor. The findings are summarised and discussed below and the detailed results can be found in Table 4 in Appendix 2.

¹⁰ op cit TNS Social 2003

Table 3.2: Profile of children and households receiving only formal childcare

	Children most likely to receive formal childcare only	Children least likely to receive formal childcare only
Area	Edinburgh Glasgow	Fife North Lanarkshire
Family type	Single parent family Couple with 1-2 children	Couple with 3+ children
Age of child	Children aged 1-4 years old	Children aged 12-16 years old
Reasons for using childcare	For child's development	To give more time to do other things

Source: SHS 2003/2004

3.14 As with all other types of childcare, the age of the child was a strong predictor of whether a child received formal childcare. Given the existence of pre-school education and the consistent findings that parents of younger children utilise more and varied types of childcare, the results are as expected and indicate that almost half (45%) of the children aged 1-4 years old who received any type of childcare received formal childcare only. Children aged 12-16 years old were least likely to receive formal childcare only (5% of children from this age group).

3.15 Children living in Edinburgh and Glasgow were most likely to receive formal childcare only (31% and 38% respectively) compared with 19% in Fife and 17% in North Lanarkshire.

3.16 In terms of family type, there was no great difference between children from couple households with 1 or 2 children and children from single parent families in whether they received formal childcare only (30% and 28% respectively). However, a lower proportion (22%) of children from larger families received this type of childcare.

3.17 Children whose parents reported that they used childcare for their child's development were also more likely to be receiving formal childcare only. This was related to the use of pre-school education and parents utilising formal childcare for its educational properties. In contrast, children whose parents were using childcare to give them time to do other things were less likely to be receiving formal childcare only. This may be as parents used a mixture of childcare in order to meet this objective.

Children receiving both formal and informal childcare

3.18 Overall, 14% of children receiving childcare received both formal and informal childcare. Younger children were more likely to receive a mixture of childcare, with 21% of children aged between 1 and 4 years old receiving both formal and informal childcare. In contrast, only 12% of children aged 5-11 and 3% of children aged 12-16 received a mixture of childcare. The proportion of children receiving both types of childcare decreased as the number of children in the household increased; 16% of children in households with one child compared with 8% of children in households with four or more children. There was a similar trend in terms of income, with a greater proportion of higher than lower income households using both formal and informal childcare; 18% in households with an annual income of over £40,000 compared with 10% of households with an annual income of £6,000 - £10,000.

These results seem to be linked to the higher proportion of higher income households with younger children using formal as well as informal childcare.

Comparing formal and informal childcare

3.19 Formal childcare was more common than informal childcare among younger children, with this pattern reversing among older children. For example, among 1-4 year olds receiving childcare, 45% of children received formal childcare only and 34% received informal childcare only, with 21% receiving both. However, there was a trend towards informal childcare among older children. For example, only 5% of children receiving childcare and aged between 12 and 16 years old received formal childcare whereas 92% of these children received some form of informal childcare.

3.20 Informal childcare was more common than formal childcare and this pattern was even more evident in households with more children. For example, the proportion of formal versus informal childcare was 32% compared with 52% for children in households with one child, and 22% compared with 70% for children in households with four children.

3.21 The single most common form of childcare used was informal care in the form of care by a relative. The most common form of formal childcare was nursery or playgroup. The use of individual types of childcare is discussed in more detail in the next chapter.

Summary

3.22 Although informal childcare was more common across all household types and in a proportion of cases a mixture of formal and informal childcare was used, it is still possible to identify some key patterns of use of formal and informal childcare by some key household characteristics.

- *Age of children:* formal childcare was more common among younger children.
- *Working status:* use of formal as opposed to informal care was more common in households where one or more adults were in paid employment.
- *Family type:* households with a greater number of children tended to rely more on informal than formal childcare.
- *Income:* this is linked with working status, as households where both parents are working tend to have higher incomes, and a greater need for childcare. The propensity to use formal as opposed to informal childcare increased with income, presumably as the majority of formal childcare has to be paid for.

3.23 Demographic factors which were not found to be predictors of the use of formal or informal childcare were household type, socio-economic status of the highest income householder, gender of the head of household, car access, and whether the family lived in an urban or rural area.

CHAPTER FOUR USE OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHILDCARE

Introduction

4.1 The previous chapter examined the overall use of formal and informal childcare and the demographic factors that predicted the use of formal or informal childcare. The SHS findings also indicate that care by relatives was the most commonly used type of informal childcare and that nursery or playgroup was the most commonly used type of formal childcare (see Table 2.1). In this chapter we look in more detail at particular types of childcare. Although logistic regression models were run for each type of childcare, it was only for the use of nursery and out of school care that any of the demographic factors and reasons for using childcare included in the SHS data were found to be significant predictors of use. For the other types of childcare (registered childminder, friends and relatives) the models did not strongly predict their use (see Appendix 2 for further details). As a result of this, the types of childcare are described differently within this chapter. The sections in this chapter which discuss the use of nursery and out of school care describe the results of the models in terms of predictors of that type of childcare. However, the sections on childcare by registered childminder, friends and relatives give a more general description of the associated factors.

Predictors of children attending nurseries or playgroups

4.2 Overall, 38% of families with children aged between 1 and 4 years old reported that they used nurseries or playgroups for childcare. Of all the demographic factors analysed, only age of child and reason for using childcare were significant predictors of use of this type of childcare. This suggests that the use of this type of childcare is similar among all types of households and ties in to the figures from the Scottish Executive which indicated that almost all eligible families make use of the free nursery places available to them in Scotland¹¹. It is obvious that age of child was predictive, as this type of childcare is almost all for pre-school children, although some private nurseries do offer after-school care for older children. The reasons that parents had for using childcare were also predictive of children being in receipt of childcare through a nursery or playgroup. Children of parents who said that they were using childcare for their child's development were more likely to report using a nursery or playgroup than children whose parents were not using childcare for this reason. This result would perhaps also be expected, given that nurseries and playgroups offer a form of pre-school education and are run by trained staff. Children of parents who were using childcare to enable them to study or to study more were also more likely to use nurseries or playgroups than children whose parents were not using childcare for this reason. This could be expected, as student parents may need a childcare provider that would fit in with their studying patterns.

¹¹ op cit Scottish Executive 2005

Table 4.1: Profile of children and households most likely to attend nurseries or playgroups

	Children most likely to attend nurseries or playgroups	Children least likely to attend nurseries or playgroups
Age of child	Children aged 1-4 years old	Children aged over 5 years and above
Reasons for using childcare	For child's development To enable self/partner to study	To give more time to do other things

Source: SHS 2003/2004

4.3 Interestingly, children of parents who reported that they used childcare to give them time to do other things were less likely to be attending nurseries or playgroups than children of parents not using childcare for this reason, suggesting that they utilised other types of childcare provider. It may also be these parents may have been more likely to need childcare in the evening in order to socialise or spend time with their partner.

Pre-school education

4.4 As previously discussed, recent statistics indicate that, in January 2005, 81% of 3 year olds and 98% of four year olds attended pre-school education in Scotland. In the SHS, parents of children aged between 3 and 4 years old were asked if they used the free part-time nursery places for their children. Overall, 62% of parents with children this age did report that they used the free nursery places. Although this represents the majority of children, it does suggest that over a third of children did not attend. This is also a significantly lower number than was quoted in previous research. It is likely that the low numbers of parents reporting this in the SHS may be due to the question being asked as part of a set of questions on 'childcare'. Parents of 3 and 4 year olds may not consider that they use the free part-time nursery places for 'childcare' but rather for their child's education, in the same way that parents of older children do not consider school to be childcare.

Predictors of children receiving Out of School Care

4.5 Before school care, after school care, and holiday clubs were combined into one variable representing Out of School Care (OSC). Predictors of whether children would attend this type of childcare were: area; household type; income; age of child and the main reasons for using childcare.

Table 4.2: Profile of children and households most likely to attend Out of School Care

	Children most likely to attend OSC	Children least likely to attend OSC
Area	Glasgow Edinburgh	North Lanarkshire
Household type	Single parent	Large family
Income	Higher incomes (e.g. £30,001 - £40,000)	Lower incomes (e.g. £10,001 - £20,000)
Age of child	Children aged 5 - 11	Children age 12 - 16
Reasons for using childcare	For child's development To enable self/partner to study/study more	To give more time to do other things

Source: SHS 2003/2004

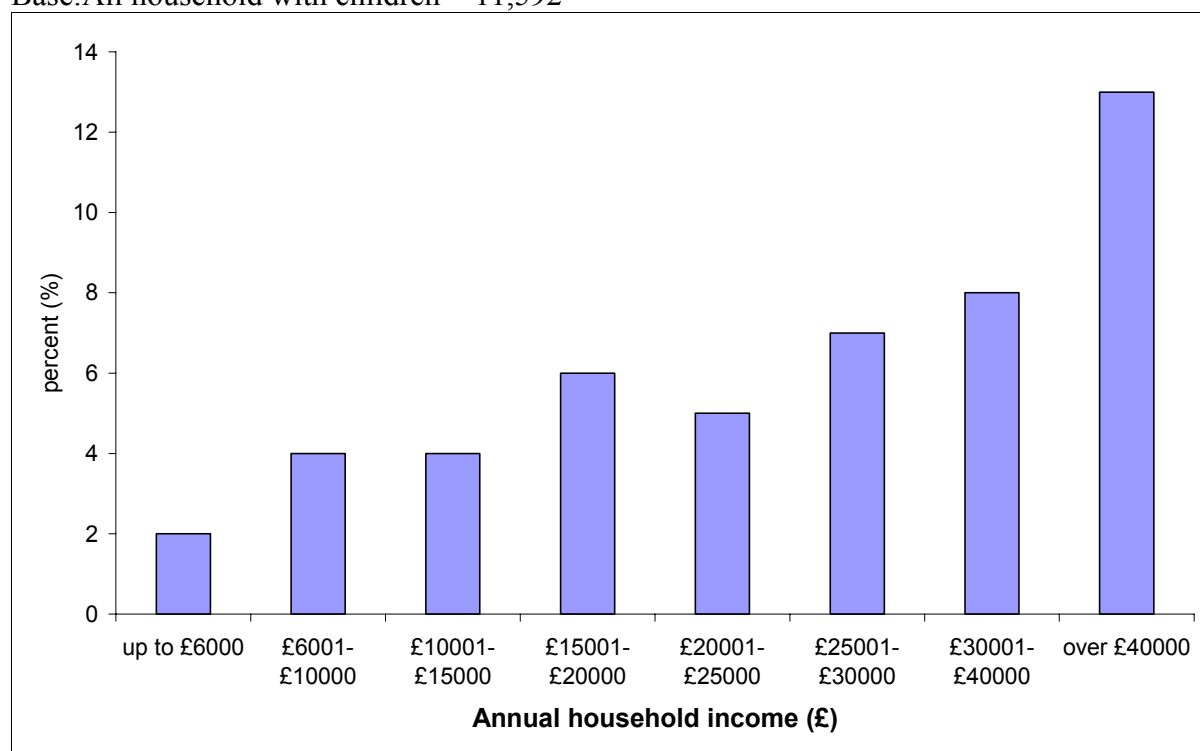
4.6 Overall, 8% of children received OSC. Children living in Glasgow and Edinburgh were more likely to be in receipt of OSC than children living in other areas, which may be linked to the supply of OSC in these cities. Just over one child in 10 (11%) living in Glasgow and 7% of children living in Edinburgh was in receipt of OSC compared with 3% in North Lanarkshire. As children from this area were, overall, more likely to be in receipt of childcare than children from other areas, this result may suggest a greater use of alternative forms of childcare in North Lanarkshire.

4.7 Children from single parent households were more likely to receive OSC than children living in other types of households. Overall, 8% of children living in these households attended OSC.

4.8 Generally, the trend related to income revealed that children from households with higher incomes were more likely to receive OSC, see Figure 4.1. In particular, children from households with an income of £40,000 or more were most likely to receive OSC, with 13% of children from these households attending OSC. As this type of childcare generally has to be paid for, it is likely that working families on a lower income may have to make other arrangements for childcare out of school hours. In the previous chapter it was shown that the use of informal childcare was more common in families with lower incomes.

Figure 4.1 Proportion of children receiving out of school care, by annual household income

Base: All household with children = 11,592



4.9 Given the fact that OSC is provided for school age children, it would be expected that the age of the child would be predictive of whether children would receive this type of childcare. This was the case, with children of primary school age most likely to attend OSC. The majority (90%) of all children attending OSC were aged between 5 and 11 years old, with 12% of all children of this age attending OSC.

4.10 The reasons that parents had for using childcare were also predictive of whether children would attend OSC. Children of parents using childcare for their child's development were more likely to be in receipt of OSC than children whose parents were not using childcare for this reason. This result is perhaps as expected, as parents often use formal childcare for their child's development. Children of parents using childcare to enable them to study or to study more were more likely to be attending OSC than children of parents not using childcare for this reason. This could be because parents attending university or college need to use OSC to fit in with their studying patterns. Children of parents who were using childcare to give them time to do other things were less likely to be attending OCS than children whose parents who were not using childcare for this reason. Therefore it appears that OSC was used most by parents who were working or studying.

Children being cared for by registered childminder

4.11 As previously described, none of the demographic factors or reasons for using childcare was found to be a significant predictor of the use of this type of childcare. However, some variation in the use of childminders was found by area; urban/rural

classification; household working status; income and age of child. The following reasons for using childcare were also found to be related to the use of registered childminders: to enable self or partner to work; to improve choice of jobs; to earn more money; and to give more time to do other things. These relationships are summarised in Table 4.3 and displayed in more detail in Table 10 of Appendix 2.

Table 4.3: Profile of children and households cared for by registered childminder

	Children more likely to be cared for by registered childminder	Children less likely to be cared for by registered childminder
Area	Lothian Highlands and Islands	Glasgow North Lanarkshire
Urban/rural classification	Rural areas	Urban areas
Household working status	Working households	Non-working households
Income	Higher income households	Lower income households
Age of child	Children aged 1-11 years old	Children aged between 12 and 16
Reasons for using childcare	To enable self/partner to work To improve choice of jobs To earn more money	To give more time to do other things

Source: SHS 2003/2004

4.12 The results indicate that the highest proportion of children being cared for by registered childminders lived in Lothian and in Highlands and Islands (7% and 5% of children living in these areas respectively). Only 1% of children living in Glasgow and North Lanarkshire were cared for by registered childminders. In terms of rurality, 7% of children living in small remote towns received this type of childcare, which was a higher proportion than in other types of area. For example in large urban areas 2% of children were cared for by registered childminders.

4.13 Most children being cared for by registered childminders were from working households (89%) with the majority being from working couple households (66%) and around a quarter being from single working adult households (23%). Overall, 7% of children from single working adult households and 5% from working couple households received this childcare. As working status is linked with income, it is unsurprising that children from households with higher incomes were more likely to be cared for by registered childminders. That is, just under half (47%) of all children cared for by childminders were from households with an annual income of over £30,000.

4.14 The proportion of children receiving this type of childcare was fairly well spread between children aged 1 to 4 years old (47%) and children aged 5 to 11 years old (49%). Overall, 7% of children aged between 1 and 4 years old and 4% of children aged between 5 and 11 years old were cared for by registered childminders. As with other types of childcare, older children were much less likely to be cared for by registered childminders. In fact, only 5% of children receiving this type of childcare were from 12-16 age group.

4.15 In terms of the reasons for using childcare, children of parents using childcare to enable them to work, to improve their choice of jobs, and to earn more money were more likely to use registered childminders. Children whose parents were using childcare to give them more time to do other things were less likely to be receiving childcare from registered childminders.

4.16 Perhaps unsurprisingly, children from non-working households (less than 1%) were the least likely to receive this childcare, and as mentioned previously, children from lower income households were less likely to be cared for by registered childminders. For example, only 10% of children cared for by registered childminders were from households with an annual income of £15,000 or less whereas almost half (49%) came from households with an annual income over £30,000.

Children cared for by parents' friends

4.17 As was the case for the use of registered childminders, none of the factors examined was found to be a significant predictor of this type of childcare. However, some differences in the use of friends for childcare were found by urban/rural classification; ethnicity; household working status; and age of child. The following reasons for using childcare were also found to be associated with this type of childcare: using childcare to improve choice of jobs and to give more time to do other things. The descriptive results of children cared for and not cared for by parents' friends are displayed in Table 11 of Appendix 2.

Table 4.4: Profile of children and households receiving childcare from a parent's friend

	Children receiving childcare from a parent's friend	Children not receiving childcare from a parent's friend
Urban/rural classification	Rural areas	Urban areas
Ethnicity	White Scottish and White 'other' background	Other ethnic background
Household working status	Working households, especially single working adults	Non-working households, especially non-working couples
Age of child	Children aged 5 – 11 years old	Children aged 1-4, and 12-16 years old
Reasons for using childcare	To improve choice of jobs To give more time to do other things	For child's development

Source: SHS 2003/2004

4.18 The results indicate that children living in rural areas were more likely to receive this type of childcare. Overall 28% of children receiving childcare from their parents' friends were from rural areas, which is higher than the proportion of children living in these areas who did not receive this childcare (19%). This result may be linked to the supply of childcare in rural areas, with parents having to rely more on informal childcare. Previous research found a demand for formal childcare in rural areas that was not met by the supply¹².

4.19 In terms of ethnicity, 7% of children from 'White – Scottish' and 10% of children from 'White – other' backgrounds were cared for by parent's friends, which is a higher proportion than children of other ethnic groups (4%).

4.20 As with other types of childcare, a higher proportion of children receiving childcare from parents' friends were from working rather than from non working households (87% compared with 13%). A tenth of children from single working adult households and 7% from working couple households received this childcare. This once again illustrates the strong relationship between the working status of the household and the need for childcare.

¹² Parents Access to and Demand for Childcare in Scotland, NFO Social Research and DTZ Piedad Consulting, 2004 <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47060/0023721.pdf>

4.21 This type of childcare differs from others, in that younger children were not the most likely to receive it. The results indicate that children aged between 5 and 11 were most likely to receive this type of childcare; 59% of children receiving this childcare were in this age group.

4.22 Children whose parents were using childcare to improve their choice of jobs or to give them more time were more likely to receive childcare from parent's friends. This is perhaps as expected, as parents often use informal types of childcare to socialise etc.

Children receiving childcare from relatives

4.23 This was the most common type of childcare, with 28% of children being cared for by relatives but, as with childcare by registered childminders and childcare by friends, the analyses did not find any significant predictors of this type of childcare. There was some variation in the use of relatives for childcare by: area; ethnicity; household working status; income; number of dependent children; and age of child. The following reasons for using childcare were also related to using relatives for childcare: using childcare to enable self or partner to work; to improve choice of jobs; to earn more money; and to give self more time. The results are summarised in Table 4.5 and displayed in Table 12 of Appendix 2.

Table 4.5: Profile of children and households receiving childcare from relative

	Children receiving childcare from a relative	Children not receiving childcare from a relative
Area	North Lanarkshire Fife	Glasgow Dunbartonshire
Ethnicity	White Scottish	Other White Other background
Household working status	Working households	Non-working households
Income	Higher income households	Lower income households
Age of child	Children aged 1-11 years old	Children aged 12-16 years old
Reasons for using childcare	To enable self/partner to work To improve choice of jobs To earn more money To give more time to do other things	

Source: SHS 2003/2004

4.24 The highest proportion of children being cared for by relatives lived in North Lanarkshire and Fife (37% and 35% respectively). Children living in Glasgow and Dunbartonshire (19% and 26% respectively) were less likely than children in other areas to be cared for by parents or relatives.

4.25 In terms of ethnicity, a higher proportion of children of White Scottish origin (29%) were cared for by relatives than children from other ethnic backgrounds.

4.26 The majority of children receiving this type of childcare were from working households (78%). Around a third of children from single working adult and working couple households were cared for by parents or relatives (37% and 35% respectively). Use of this childcare also increased with income, with a third of children from households earning between £25,001 and £40,000 receiving this type of childcare. However, a higher proportion

of children from non-working households (22%) received this type of childcare than any other type of childcare. In fact, 20% of children from non-working single and 10% from non-working couple households were cared for by parents or relatives.

4.27 Older children were the least likely to receive any type of childcare, although just under a fifth (18%) of children aged between 12 and 16 were cared for by relatives, which is a higher proportion than other types of childcare.

Summary

4.28 Regression analysis indicated some key predictors of use of nursery or playgroup and out of school care as outlined below.

Nursery or playgroup – clearly, the age of child is the strongest indicator here as such organisations are aimed at children up to the age of five years. Nurseries or playgroups were more commonly used by working parents than non-working parents. Parental reasons given for using childcare were also predictors of use of this type of childcare, with use being most likely by those who reported using childcare for the child’s development.

Out of School Care – key predictors of the use of such childcare were area (Glasgow and Edinburgh), household type (with single parents most likely to use Out of School Care), income (higher incomes), age of child (more common where child was aged over 11 years). Parents who used childcare for their child’s development or to study or study more were also more likely to use OSC.

4.9 However, regression models for the following childcare providers did not show as strong a link between demographic factors and type of childcare used. The factors cannot therefore be described in terms of ‘predictors’ of childcare but rather we describe where there is some difference in the patterns of these type of childcare.

Registered childminder – use of a registered childminder was more common among working couple households, higher income households and those with children aged under 11 years old.

Friend of parent or guardian – was more common in rural than urban areas, most common for children between 5 and 11 years of age (perhaps indicating the use of friends for pre- and post-school care) and used more by single working adults than by other household types.

Relative - this type of childcare was the most common type of informal childcare, with 28% of children being cared for by relatives or parents. This type of childcare was more common among working households, particularly single working parents.

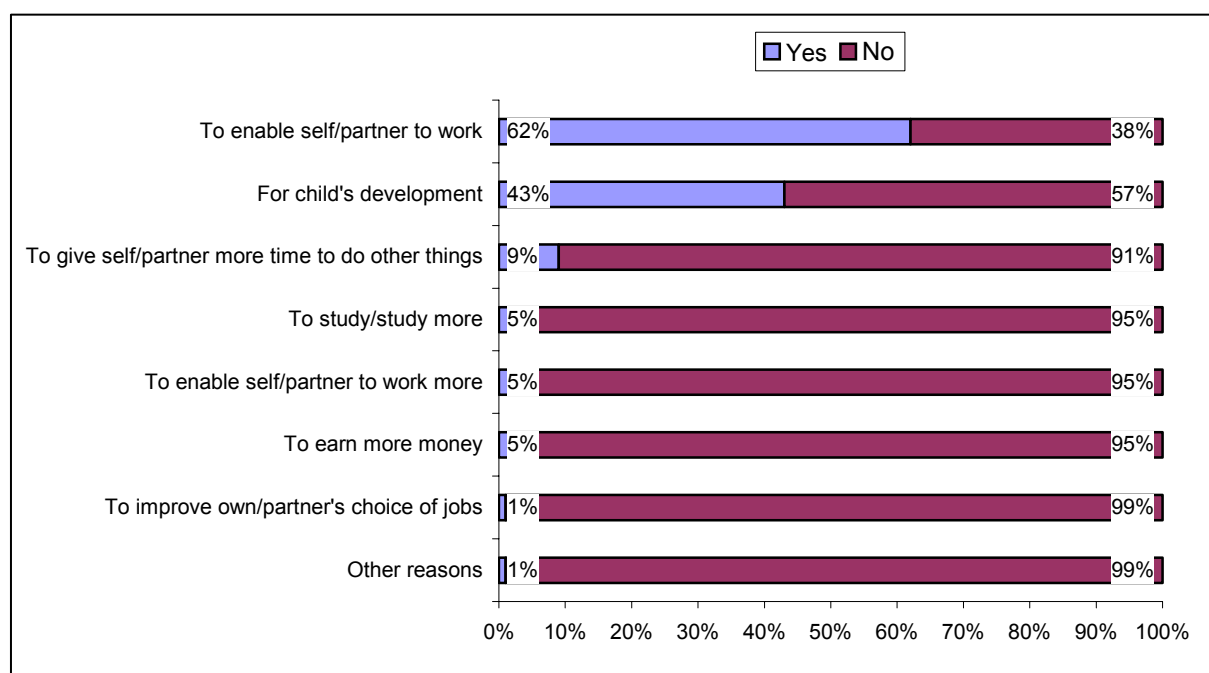
4.30 Some of the demographic factors were not found to be predictors of the use of any of the types of childcare discussed in this chapter. These were gender of the highest earning householder and car access.

CHAPTER FIVE REASONS FOR USING CHILDCARE

5.1 The reasons why parents use childcare have important implications for labour market participation, as previous research indicated that over a half of parents chose a particular childcare provider in order to enable them to go out to work¹³. It is important to determine if this is still the case, given that around six in ten parents felt they had no choice but to work for financial reasons. Recent statistics indicate that, overall, 69% of women with dependent children worked and just over half (54%) of female lone parents were in work¹⁴.

Figure 5.1: Reasons for using childcare

Base: Parents of randomly selected child who were asked about reasons = 3,395



5.2 As can be seen from Figure 5.1, the most commonly given reason for using childcare was to enable the parents to work (62%), while 43% of parents used childcare for the child's development. This is now examined in further detail, considering the reasons for using childcare by different type of childcare provider and the household characteristics of those using childcare.

Reasons for using different types of childcare

5.3 It is clear that to a large extent, the type of childcare used reflects the key reasons for use, owing to the age of child and the time of day that care is available. For example, as shown in Figure 5.2 and Table 5.1, the majority of parents who chose to use a registered childminder did so for work or economic reasons: 85% to enable them to work, 9% to enable them to earn more money, 5% to work more and 3% to improve their choice of jobs. A fifth

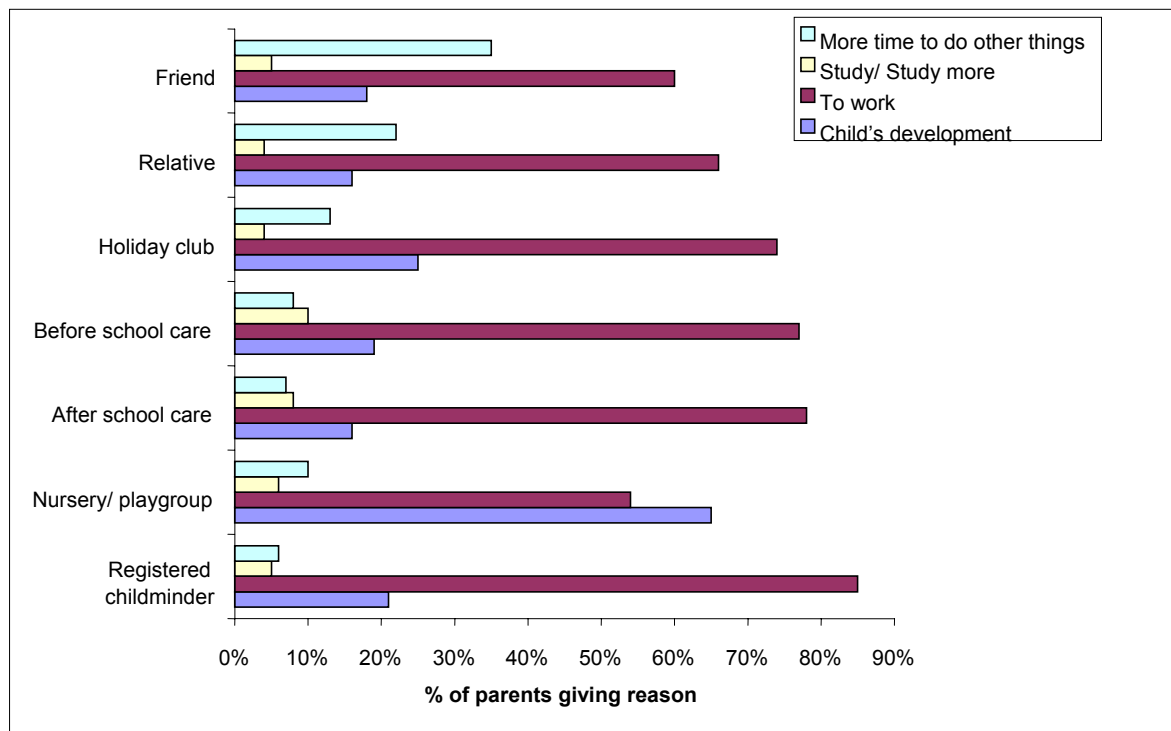
¹³ op cit TNS Social 2003

¹⁴ op cit Scottish Executive 2005

mentioned the child’s development as a key reason for choosing a childminder. The balance between economic and child development reasons reflect the fact that childminders were more commonly used by working parents. A similar pattern is seen in relation to other types of childcare commonly used by working parents, after and before school care and friends or relatives. However, in relation to the use of nurseries and playgroups (which is less strongly related to the working status of parents), the pattern is different with the most common reason being the child’s development (mentioned by 65% of parents) and economic reasons being marginally secondary.

Figure 5.2: Main reasons for using different childcare providers

Base: Parents of randomly selected child asked about reasons = 3,395



5.4 Interestingly, the most informal types of childcare (friends and relatives) appear to be used for slightly different reasons, a significant proportion of parents reported that they used childcare to enable them to have free time to do other things. Arguably, the freeing up of time for non-work-related activities is not commonly considered to be something to be purchased through formal childcare mechanisms but is nevertheless deemed important enough by some parents for them to seek informal care options for this reason.

Table 5.1: Reasons for using different childcare providers

Base: Parents of randomly selected child being cared for by provider: Registered childminder = 255; Before school care = 58; Relative = 1926; Other arrangement = 112; Holiday club = 133; Nursery/playgroup = 685; After school care = 327; Friend = 435

	Child's development	To work	To work more	Improve choice of jobs	Earn more money	Study/ Study more	More time to do other things	Other reasons
Registered childminder	21%	85%	5%	3%	9%	5%	6%	1%
Nursery/ playgroup	65%	54%	4%	1%	5%	6%	10%	1%
After school care	16%	78%	8%	2%	6%	8%	7%	1%
Before school care	19%	77%	7%	-	2%	10%	8%	-
Holiday club	25%	74%	8%	3%	6%	4%	13%	3%
Relative	16%	66%	6%	2%	7%	4%	22%	3%
Friend	18%	60%	7%	3%	7%	5%	35%	3%
Other arrangement	22%	57%	4%	2%	4%	5%	31%	6%

Source: SHS 2003/2004

5.5 Further detail was available in relation to reasons for using free nursery places. The reasons for using childcare differed between those who did and did not use such places. Of those parents who used the free nursery places, 72% used childcare for their child's development, 45% to enable themselves or their partner to work and 11% to give themselves or their partner more time to do other things. Of those parents not using the free nursery places, 65% used childcare to allow themselves or their partner to work, 35% for their child's development, 10% to give themselves or their partner to do other things, and 7% to earn more money. This would indicate that parents taking up the free nursery education use childcare more for their child's development than work reasons, and the opposite is the case for those parents not using the free pre-school education places.

The characteristics of those giving different reasons for use of childcare

5.6 The reasons parents had for using different childcare providers were also analysed by various demographic characteristics, to determine whether different types of families used childcare providers for different reasons. The results are displayed in Table 13 in Appendix 2. Only those reasons which produced significant differences are included. Many of the household variables which reveal differences among parents reasoning are interlinked, for example, working households on higher incomes who are buying their property with the help of a mortgage.

Use childcare for child's development

5.7 The proportion of parents who used childcare for their child's development varied in relation to the demographic characteristics of both the child and the household. Perhaps expectedly, this reason became less salient as the age of the child increased (45% of parents of children aged 1-4 years old compared with 9% of parents of children aged 12-16 years old), presumably as it is more important for younger children to receive childcare that is educational.

5.8 The results relating to working status and household income reveal that non-working parents with lower incomes were more likely to cite this reason, presumably as using childcare to cover work patterns was not necessary. The highest proportion of parents citing this reason came from couple households where neither worked (53%) followed by couple household where one person worked (45%). Parents from single working adult households were the least likely to cite this reason (11%), perhaps as their greatest need was to have childcare to enable them to work, as they could not rely on a partner to help with childcare. Similarly, this reason was more common among households with lower annual incomes. That is, 34% of parents with an annual income of £10,000 or less used childcare for this reason compared with 23% of parents with an annual household income of £40,000 or more.

5.9 Parents from owner occupier households or households rented from a local authority were less likely than parents renting from a housing association or living in private rented accommodation to use childcare for this reason; 24% and 24% compared with 32% and 31% respectively.

Use childcare to enable self/partner to work

5.10 Generally, this reason was more salient for parents with older children, with 58% of parents of children aged between 1 and 4 years old citing this as a reason compared with 67% of parents of older children. This would make sense, as parents of younger children are more likely to not work and to look after their children full time than parents of older children. Parents were also more likely to cite this reason if they had fewer dependent children in the household (e.g. 68% of parents with one dependent child and 44% of parents with four dependent children), again perhaps as households with more children are more likely to have a non-working parent in the household.

5.11 Perhaps with this reason more than others, it would be expected that working households would be more likely to cite this reason for using childcare. This was the case, 86% of single working parents and 78% of parents from working couple households used childcare to enable them to work. In contrast, among couple household where only one adult worked, 26% gave this reason. In relation to income, three quarters (76%) of parents from households with an annual income of £40,000 or more cited this reason as opposed to 26% of parents from households with an income of £10,000 or less. In terms of household tenure, 71% of parents from households who were buying the property with the help of a loan or mortgage used childcare to enable them to work compared with 47% of parents in social rented accommodation citing this reason.

5.12 In terms of rurality, the highest proportion of parents using childcare to enable them or their partner to work were from other urban areas and the lowest proportion were from remote rural areas (67% compared with 55%).

Use of childcare to study/study more

5.13 There were fewer differences related to this reason, most likely reflecting the types of household where parents were students. For example, 15% of non working single adults cited using childcare to enable them to study. Parents from households with an annual income of £10,000 or less were more likely to cite this reason than parents from households with the highest level of income (9% compared with 3%).

Use of childcare to give self/partner more time to do other things

5.14 Parents from households where at least one adult was not working were more likely to cite this reason as to why they use childcare. This would make sense, as these households were more likely to include a parent who provided childcare full time, and who would use childcare for recreational reasons. In fact, 47% of parents from non-working single adult households, 36% from couple households where one adult worked, and 34% from couple households where neither adult worked used childcare for this reason. Linked to this is the fact that parents using childcare for this reason were more likely to come from lower than higher income households. For example, 36% of parents from households with an income of £10,000 or less used childcare for this reason as opposed to 14% of parents from households with an income of £40,000 or more.

Summary

5.15 By far the most commonly given reason for using childcare was ‘to enable self/partner to work.’ This is a similar finding to the previous TNS report where 54% gave this reason. The second most important reason was for child’s development (43%). There were some key differences relating to reasons for using childcare by household demographics and by type of childcare provider.

- The most common reason for using a registered childminder was to enable self or partner to work (or work more/earn more).
- The most common reason for using playgroup or nursery care was for the child’s development.
- The extent to which parents used childcare for their child’s development varied by the age of the child (more common among parents of younger children) and by working status (more common among non-working parents).
- The extent to which parents used childcare in order to enable themselves or their partners to work varied by the age of the child and the working and household status of the parents. It was more common among parents of children aged over four years old than parents of younger children. It was also more common among working parents, particularly households containing only one working adult.
- Other reasons for using childcare did not vary as significantly and generally were more marginal. However, the use of friends and relatives to free up time for non-work related activities was important.

CHAPTER SIX PARENTAL VIEWS ON QUALITY AND SUITABILITY OF CHILDCARE

Introduction

6.1 This section examines parental satisfaction with childcare and parents' views on the accessibility, convenience and affordability of childcare. Previous research indicated that almost all parents rated their current childcare providers highly, and the most common reason for changing provider was that the child had grown too old for that type of provision¹⁵. This would suggest that satisfaction with providers is not an issue that causes concern. However, this is a complex issue that requires further analysis. Given the importance of deciding on a childcare provider, it would be expected that satisfaction with current childcare provider would be high, as parents would not settle for a provider that they were not happy with. The 2003 study on parental access and demand for childcare summarised this decision for parents:

“Childcare is only used if it meets parents’ minimum standards of safety and trust, quality of care, cost and convenience. If a provider cannot be found to meet these minimum thresholds, parents may then reassess their lifestyles and working patterns”.

Satisfaction with childcare provision

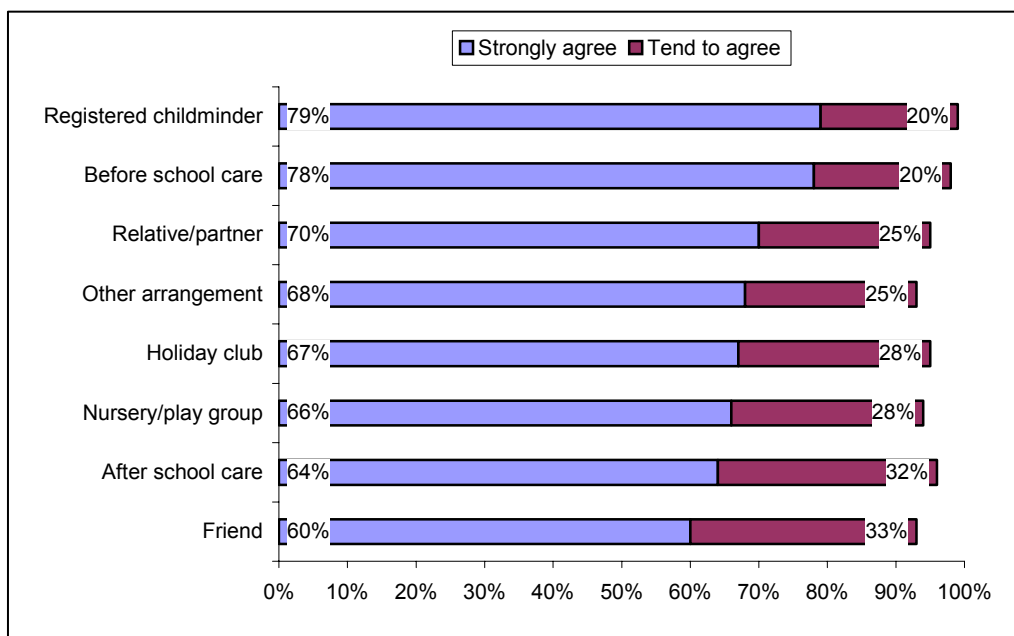
6.2 The results indicated a high level of satisfaction with childcare provider, with only 2% of respondent's disagreeing that they were satisfied. In fact, 68% of respondents strongly agreed and a further 27% tended to agree that they were satisfied with their childcare provider. There were no significant differences in satisfaction levels across different childcare providers, with less than 3% of parents being dissatisfied with any childcare provider. Parents who used childcare to enable themselves or their partner to work, or for their child's development appeared to be very satisfied with the childcare, 96% and 94% respectively agreed that they were satisfied with the quality of childcare that they used.

6.3 In order to investigate this further, the overall agreement ratings were analysed in terms of parents who strongly agreed or tended to agree that they were satisfied with the quality of childcare that they used (see Figure 6.1). There was some variation between childcare providers, with registered childminders and before school care generating the highest ratings. Parents using friends as their childcare provider appeared to be less satisfied.

¹⁵ op cit TNS Social 2003

Figure 6.1: Agreement ratings with ‘I am satisfied with the quality of the childcare that I use’ by childcare provider

Base: Parents of randomly selected child asked about satisfaction: Registered childminder = 255; Before school care = 57; Relative/partner = 415; Other arrangement = 111; Holiday club = 130; Nursery/playgroup = 675; After school care = 325; Friend = 125



Predictors of satisfaction with childcare

6.4 Logistic regression examined predictors of satisfaction with various types of childcare, using demographics variables, types of childcare and reasons for using childcare. As almost all parents (95%) were satisfied, to a greater or lesser extent, with the childcare they received, these analyses looked at predictors of ‘strongly’ agreeing with the statement. The results for this model are displayed in Table 14 of the Appendix, and the results of the crosstabulations are displayed in Table 6.1.

6.5 The only demographic variables which were significant were area and ethnicity. Parents living in North Lanarkshire were the most likely to strongly agree that they were satisfied with their childcare arrangements, whereas those living in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Fife were least likely to strongly agree with the statement.

6.6 Ethnicity was also significant in predicting whether parents would be satisfied with their childcare arrangements. The results indicate that parents of other White backgrounds (compared with those who classified themselves as ‘White – Scottish’) were most likely, and parents from any other ethnic backgrounds were least likely to be satisfied (72% and 48% strongly agreeing respectively). This highlights a possible area on which policy should focus, as the previous parents demand survey in 2003 found that minority ethnic parents did face additional barriers, such as language and cultural barriers, when attempting to secure appropriate childcare.

6.7 The reasons for using childcare which were significant in differentiating how satisfied parents were with their childcare were as follows: whether it was difficult for them to get to the childcare they used; whether the childcare met the needs of their child; and whether the times of childcare were convenient.

Table 6.1: Proportion of parents who strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the quality of childcare they receive for their children by demographic characteristics

Base: Parents of randomly selected child asked about satisfaction with childcare: 1639

Area	
Edinburgh	60%
Fife	61%
Glasgow	51%
North Lanarkshire	78%
Ethnicity	
White Scottish	68%
Other White background	72%
Any other background	48%

Source: SHS 2003/2004

Suitability and convenience of childcare

6.8 Parents were also asked for their levels of agreement with the statement: *'The childcare that I use meets the needs of my child'*. Again the results were positive, with 67% strongly agreeing, 27% tending to agree and less than 3% of parents expressing any level of disagreement with this statement. However, as mentioned previously, it is unlikely that many parents would use a childcare provider that they feel did not meet the needs of their child. Instead, they may have made other sacrifices to ensure that this was not the case. The SHS does not look into reasons why childcare was not used, which could potentially reveal dissatisfaction.

6.9 There were no significant differences in terms of childcare provider, with the proportion of parents disagreeing with this statement ranging from 6% of parents using holiday clubs and after school care to 2% of parents using most other types of arrangements. There were also no significant demographic differences between these parents and those who agreed with the statements.

6.10 In relation to reasons for using childcare, 96% of parents who used childcare to enable themselves or their partner to work agreed that the childcare that they used met the needs of their child. Similarly, 94% of parents who used childcare for the child's development agreed that the childcare that they used met the needs of their child.

Accessibility and convenience of childcare

6.11 This is an important issue as, regardless of the number of childcare providers in the area, an important consideration for parents is the ease at which they can access these providers. Previous research has indicated that this factor is a greater consideration for

parents of older children (specifically those aged between 12-14 years old)¹⁶. If there are high levels of reported difficulty with accessing a childcare provider, this may point to unmet demand of childcare places that are in a more suitable location.

6.12 In the SHS, parents were asked for their levels of agreement with the statement: *'It is difficult for me to get to the childcare that I use'*. Overall, only 12% of parents agreed with this statement. There were some small differences in terms of the childcare provider, with 14% of parents using nursery/playgroups or other childcare arrangements agreeing with this statement compared with 9% using before school care. In terms of reasons for using childcare, 90% of parents using childcare to enable themselves or their partner to work agreed that the times of available childcare were convenient, suggesting that the timings of childcare providers fit in with these parents working patterns. Additionally, 80% of parents using childcare for the child's development agreed that the times of available childcare were convenient.

6.13 As well as convenience in terms of location, another important aspect of childcare provision is the times at which it is available. In the SHS, parents are asked how much they agree with the statement: *'The times of the childcare that is available to me are convenient'*. Only 6% disagreed with this statement, indicating that the times of available childcare did not appear to cause problems for parents. This result was analysed by childcare provider to determine if certain types of providers were more or less convenient in the times at which they provided childcare. Perhaps expectedly, relatives were the most convenient for parents, with only 5% of parents indicating some level of inconvenience. However, other types of informal childcare (i.e. friends) were not as convenient (10% disagreeing with statement). Only 6% of parents found registered childminders to be inconvenient in terms of the times they provided childcare. The most inconvenient childcare providers were before and after school care (16% and 11% respectively) perhaps as these providers offer limited childcare only. Taken together, it might be that the results reveal differences in the expectations of parents, as parents realise that registered childminders are only available at certain times, whereas this strict timescale is not the same for using friends, and they may expect friends to be more flexible.

6.14 There did not appear to be many problems with the accessibility of childcare providers among those using childcare to enable them to work, as only 11% of these parents agreed that they found it difficult to get to the childcare that they use. However, 26% of these parents disagreed that it was easy to get a place for their child with their childcare provider suggesting that there may have been an issue on the availability of childcare for these parents.

6.15 Additionally, there did not appear to be many problems with the availability and accessibility of childcare providers for those using childcare for their child's development, as only 10% of these parents found it difficult to get to the childcare that they use and 16% disagreed that it was easy to get a place for their child with their childcare provider.

6.16 Although previous research has found working status to have an effect on demand for childcare at particular times (for example, student parents struggling to access childcare at the times when they needed it¹⁷), this was not found in the current research. The majority of

¹⁶ Op cit TNS Social 2003

¹⁷ *ibid*

single working adults and parents from working couple households agreed that the times of available childcare were convenient.

Affordability of childcare

6.17 This is a crucial aspect of childcare provision, given the Government's long-term commitment to 'making childcare more affordable and available'¹⁸. Although around two thirds of parents do not pay for childcare, a quarter of those who do pay for childcare find it difficult to meet the costs¹⁹.

6.18 However, it should be recognised that, like satisfaction with childcare provider, the choice of provider and subsequent cost is a complex issue. The cost of provider is a factor which affects choice of provider and working arrangements at a very early stage. Thus, it is unlikely that parents choose a childcare provider which results in them struggling to make payments, but instead may make other lifestyle choices to ensure that they do not find it overly difficult to make payments. It should be noted that attitudes towards affordability of childcare can only be discussed in terms of those who do currently use childcare. Those who did not use childcare (which may have been due to financial reasons) are not included in the analysis.

6.19 Level of agreement with the statement '*Given my family income, I find it hard to pay for the childcare that I use*' provides an indication on the affordability of childcare for different families. Overall, a quarter of households agreed with this statement (10% strongly agree and 15% tend to agree) suggesting that the cost of childcare did not represent a problem for most families. This is a similar proportion to that found in previous research.

6.20 In order to analyse this in more detail, agreement with the statement was analysed in terms of different childcare providers. As can be seen from Figure 6.2, families found it most difficult to pay for after school care and for registered childminders.

6.21 The cost of childcare appeared to be an issue for parents using childcare in order to enable them to work as over a quarter (28%) agreed that they found it hard to pay for childcare given their family income. This may be as parents using childcare for this reason have limited choice in terms of the hours of childcare that they need to pay for. Under a fifth of parents using childcare for their child's development (17%) agreed that they found it hard to pay for childcare given their family income.

6.22 The ease with which parents could afford childcare costs was analysed in terms of demographic characteristics. The results are displayed in Table 6.2. In terms of working status, a higher proportion of single working adults (40%) than couple households where at least one person worked (21%) found it difficult to meet childcare costs. Generally, more single parents (37%) than small (23%) or large families (20%) found it hard to pay for childcare.

¹⁸ op cit Scottish Childcare Strategy 1998

¹⁹ ibid

Figure 6.2: Agreement with statement: ‘Given my family income, I find it hard to pay for the childcare I use’ by childcare provider

Base: Parents of randomly selected child: Registered childminder = 255; Before school care = 57; Relative/partner = 415; Other arrangement = 111; Holiday club = 130; Nursery/playgroup = 675; After school care = 325; Friend = 125

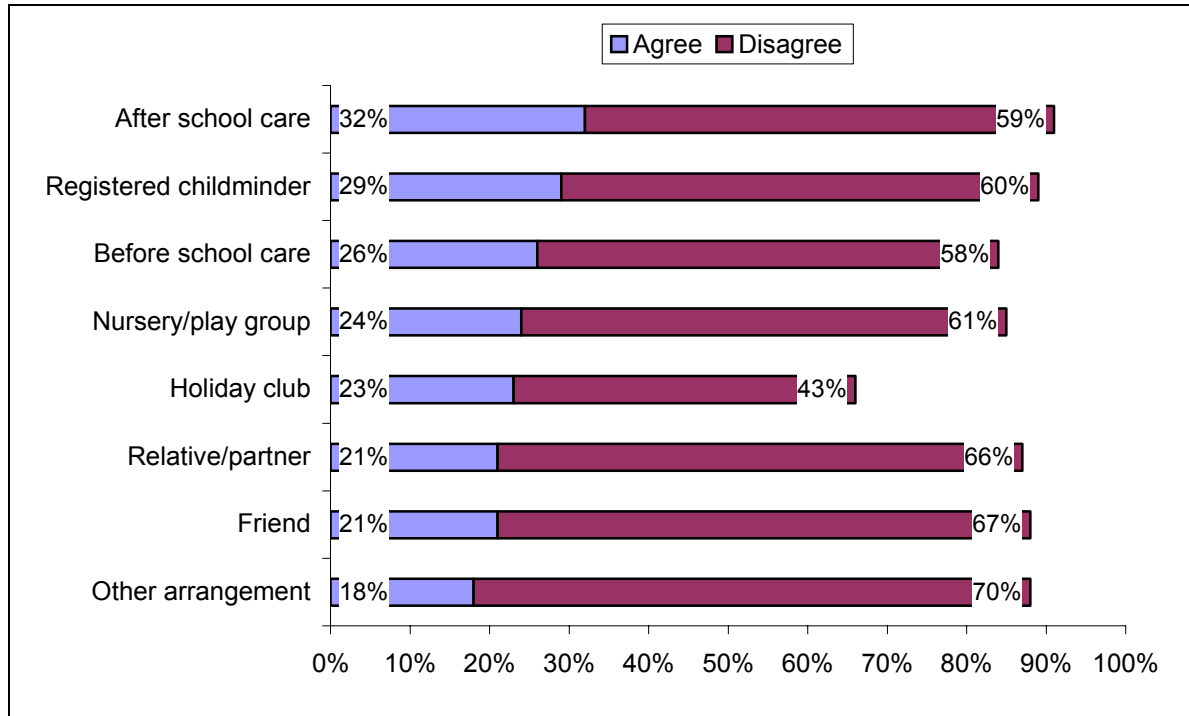


Table 6.2: Parents agreeing with the statement: ‘Given my family income, I find it hard to pay for the childcare that I use’

Base: Parents of randomly selected child: 1754

Household working status	
Single working adult	40%
Non-working single	31%
Working couple	21%
Couple, one works	21%
Couple, neither works	31%
Household type	
Single parent	37%
Small family	23%
Large family	20%
Banded net annual income	
£0 - £10,000	27%
£10,001 - £15,000	27%
£15,001 - £20,000	35%
£20,001 - £25,000	35%
£25,001 - £30,000	29%
£30,001 - £40,000	25%
Over £40,000	21%
Housing tenure	
Owned outright	29%
Buying with help of loan/mortgage	23%
Rent – LA/SH	33%
Rent – HA, Co-op	29%
Rent – private landlord	32%
Area	
Glasgow	38%
North Lanarkshire	14%
Grampian	19%

Source: SHS 2003/2004

6.23 Given that the cost of childcare is high, and that a family on an average income with two children could be spending as much as a third of their income on childcare²⁰, it is important to determine how household income impacts on use of childcare. Evidence indicates that there is more private childcare available in affluent areas²¹. Perhaps most importantly, low income households appear to be those most in need of additional hours of childcare²² and parents on low incomes feel that the cost of formal childcare is prohibitive and reduces their options²³. This suggests a demand for childcare that is not currently being met within these households, thus further validating the need to investigate use of childcare by household income.

6.24 A lower proportion of parents on the highest band of household income found it difficult to pay for childcare than those earning between £15,000 and £25,000 (21% versus 35%). However, parents on lower incomes also reported less difficulty in paying for childcare than those in the middle income group (27%). More parents who lived in private rented accommodation than in properties that they were buying with the help of a loan/mortgage found it difficult to pay for childcare costs (32% compared with 23%). In terms of area, a higher proportion of parents living in Glasgow (38%) than in other areas found it difficult to pay for childcare, especially parents living in North Lanarkshire (14%).

6.25 One difference in results between parents who did and did not use free pre-school education was related to the cost of childcare. A third of parents not using the free pre-school education places found it difficult to pay for the childcare that they use (given their family income) compared with 16% of parents using pre-school education. Additionally, 81% of parents using pre-school education found it easy to get their child a place with their childcare provided compared with 67% of parents not using the free nursery places.

Payment for informal childcare

6.26 A key issue in the childcare cost debate is the division between informal and formal care. In the SHS, respondents are asked if they pay for informal childcare (*“Do you pay any money in return for the care that your friend/relative or partner/other arrangement gives?”*). Parents who are currently paying for informal childcare will not qualify for the childcare element of working tax credit to help pay for this childcare.

6.27 The results of the current research indicate that the parents of 19% of children who receive informal childcare pay for this childcare. In terms of demographic differences, any variables which generated a difference appeared to be linked to household income. Perhaps expectedly, a higher proportion of children whose parents are on higher incomes than lower incomes receive paid informal childcare (35% of children from households with an income of £40,0001 or more compared with 7% of children from households with an income of £10,000 or less). Significantly more children living in owner occupied than social rented accommodation received paid informal childcare (20% compared with 10%). A higher proportion of children living in working couple or couple households where one adult worked

²⁰ op cit Scottish Childcare Strategy 1998

²¹ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00346-00.asp>

²² op cit TNS Social 2004

²³ ibid

received paid informal childcare than those living in non-working single adult households (22% and 18% versus 11%).

6.28 There were also differences by area, with 35% of children in Dunbartonshire compared with 10% of children in North Lanarkshire receiving paid informal childcare. The age of the child also made a difference, with a higher proportion of younger children than older children receiving paid informal childcare, i.e. 25% of children aged between 1 and 4 years old compared with 11% of children aged between 12 and 16 years old.

6.29 Comparisons were made between parents who paid and did not pay for informal childcare²⁴. There were no differences in terms of satisfaction with the quality of childcare (both around 95%); ease of getting to childcare provider (both around 85%); opinions of whether childcare meets the need of the child (both around 95%); and ease of finding out about available childcare in the area (both around 30%).

6.30 Perhaps expectedly, a higher proportion of parents paying than not paying for formal childcare agreed that they found it difficult to pay for the childcare that they use (25% compared with 17%). However, perhaps unexpectedly, parents who did not pay for informal childcare found it easier to find childcare places (78% compared with 65%) and found the times of childcare to be more convenient (90% compared with 77%) than those who did pay. Reasons for using childcare did differ between these sets of parents. For example, 24% of parents paying for informal childcare as opposed to 14% of those not paying used childcare for their child's development; and 78% of those paying used it to enable them to go to work compared with 64% of those not paying.

Available information

6.31 The Government have long recognised the need for parents to be provided with up-to-date and accurate information about available, good quality childcare. In the Scottish Childcare Strategy, the lack of information was recognised as a problem:

“The quality and accuracy of information on childcare availability varies between local authorities. In many areas parent’s choices are limited by lack of information about what is available”.

6.32 The 2000 parental demand survey also identified some information gaps. In response to this, the Scottish Executive launched *Childcare Link*, a freephone service and website which provides information on local and national childcare. It was hoped that this service would help to fill some of the information gaps. However, the 2003 survey revealed that awareness of this service was not very high.

6.33 Although the SHS does not ask specifically about *Childcare Link*, parents are asked how much they agree with the statement: *‘It is difficult to find out what childcare is available around here’*. Just under a third of parents (31%) agreed with this statement, indicating that these parents could benefit from increased awareness of childcare services and options within their area. There were no significant differences in terms of childcare provider.

²⁴ It should be noted that attitudes towards childcare were asked in relation to the randomly selected child in the household, and so the base is at the random child level. This varies from 476-616 for the attitude questions, and the base size is 621 in relation to the reasons why parents use childcare.

6.34 In terms of available information, just under a third of parents (31%) using childcare to enable them to work found it difficult to find out what childcare was available in their area, perhaps indicating that this information could be better be communicated to parents. In terms of available information for those using childcare for the child's development, around a quarter of these parents (26%) agreed that they found it difficult to find out what childcare was available in their area.

6.35 The ease with which parents found out about childcare in their local area was analysed by various demographic variables (see Table 6.3). The results were also analysed by area in order to identify particular areas in Scotland where it was difficult for parents to find information on childcare.

6.36 There were some differences by household working status, with 41% of non-working single parents agreeing with this statement compared with 28% of parents from working couple households. In terms of housing tenure, a higher proportion of parents living in social rented than owner occupied accommodation found it difficult to find out about available childcare (42% compared with 28%). The notable differences in terms of area was that parents in North Lanarkshire (40%) found it more difficult than parents in other areas to access information, with parents living in Tayside (24%) and Renfrewshire and Inverclyde (25%) finding it easier.

Table 6.3: Parents agreeing with statement: 'It is difficult to find out what childcare is available around here'

Base: Parents of randomly selected child: 3050

Household working status	
Single working adult	33%
Non-working single	41%
Working couple	28%
Couple, one works	30%
Couple, neither works	36%
Housing tenure	
Owned outright	28%
Buying with help of loan/mortgage	28%
Rent – LA/SH	44%
Rent – HA, Co-op	37%
Rent – private landlord	28%
Urban rural classification	
Large urban areas	42%
Other urban	31%
Small accessible towns	28%
Small remote towns	32%
Accessible rural	29%
Remote rural	32%
Area	
North Lanarkshire	40%
Tayside	24%
Renfrewshire and Inverclyde	25%

Source: SHS 2003/2004

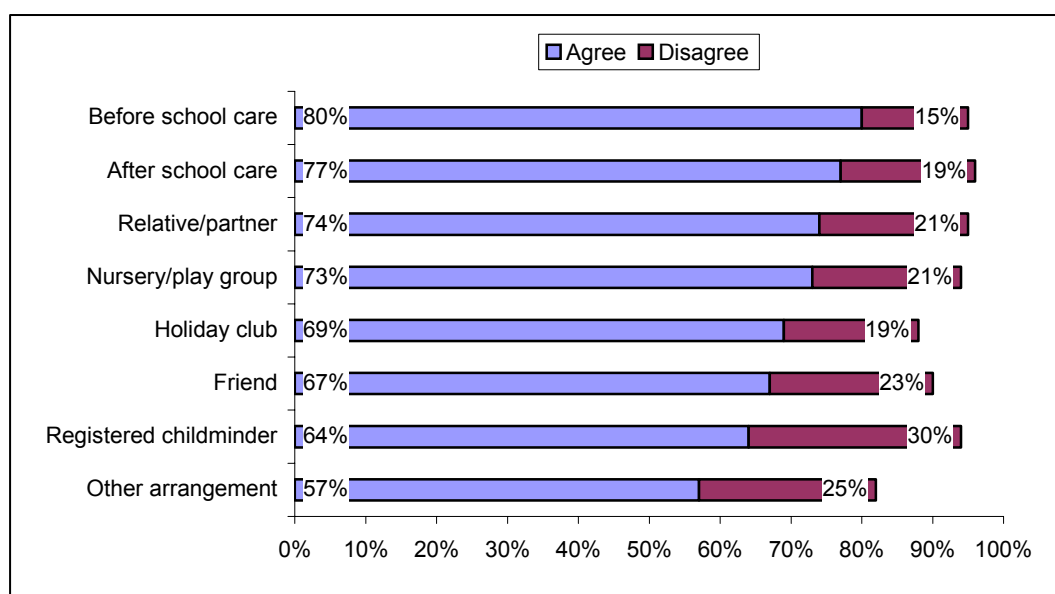
Demand for childcare

6.37 Demand for childcare is a complex issue. The statement used in the SHS which most relates to this issue: *‘It was easy to get a place in the childcare that I use for my child’* is purely attitudinal and only refers to the childcare provision that the parent is currently using, and not any childcare that they were unable to access. Therefore, it is not possible to discuss those who were unable to access the childcare places that they wanted for their child within the realms of this report.

6.38 Around a fifth of parents (21%) disagreed with this statement, indicating that they had experienced difficulties getting their child a place with their childcare provider. There were differences relating to the type of childcare provider (Figure 6.3). It was easiest for parents to get their child a place in before school care with only 15% experiencing some difficulty. People experienced most problems securing a place with a registered childminder, with just under a third (30%) experiencing some level of difficulty.

Figure 6.3: Level of agreement with statement: ‘It was easy to get a place in the childcare that I use for my child’ by childcare provider

Base: Parents of randomly selected child: Registered childminder = 255; Before school care = 57; Relative/partner = 415; Other arrangement = 111; Holiday club = 130; Nursery/playgroup = 675; After school care = 325; Friend = 125



6.39 There were no significant demographic differences in the ease at which parents found places for their children with the childcare provider.

Summary

6.40 In accordance with the findings of previous research, parents demonstrate very high levels of satisfaction with their childcare providers. Just 2% of parents disagreed that they were satisfied with their provider and 95% expressing satisfaction (68% strongly agreeing).

- There were no significant differences in relation to overall satisfaction levels with different childcare providers. However, in relation to *strongly agreeing* as opposed to *tending to agree*, there were slightly higher levels for registered childminders and before school care. Lowest levels of *strongly agreeing* related to care by friends although there were still high levels of agreement at 60%.
- There were minor differences in relation to satisfaction by some household characteristics, with parents from working couple households being the most satisfied and parents in rural areas being more satisfied than those in urban areas.
- The results indicate, in terms of area, that parents living in North Lanarkshire, Dunbartonshire, and Tayside were the most satisfied with the quality of the childcare. Satisfaction in relation to ethnicity is a more complex relationship and is certainly worthy of further examination.
- There were high levels of agreement with the statement '*The childcare I use meets the needs of my child*' (94%) with no significant variations in relation to different childcare providers.
- Around a fifth of parents disagreed with the statement, '*It was easy to get a place in the childcare that I use for my child*' suggesting that a significant minority had some difficulty finding suitable childcare for their children. Greatest difficulties appear to relate to accessing a registered childminder. There were no significant differences by household demographics in relation to agreeing that it was easy to get a place in childcare.
- Just 12% of parents disagreed with the statement '*It is difficult for me to get to the childcare that I use.*' A smaller proportion (6%) disagreed that '*The times of the childcare that is available to me are convenient.*' Informal childcare was the most convenient type of childcare.
- There were no significant differences in relation to views on the convenience of the times of childcare by the working status of parents.
- Affordability emerged as more of a problem for parents than either accessibility or convenience with a quarter of parents agreeing that '*Given my family income, I find it hard to pay for the childcare that I use*'. After school care and registered childminders were seen as the least affordable options.
- Perhaps expectedly, views on affordability varied by the working status and household income of parents with a higher proportion of single parents than couples agreeing that childcare was difficult to afford.
- Current analysis of the SHS indicates that 31% of parents agreed that '*It is difficult to find out what childcare is available around here*'. Difficulties were more common among non-working single parents and those living in social rented accommodation.

ANNEX 1 SHS CHILDCARE MODULE QUESTIONS

Asked about each individual aged under 16 in household

HE2 Which of these childcare arrangements, if any, do you use for (name)?

- Registered childminder
- Nursery or playgroup
- Before school care
- Holiday club/care
- Friend
- Relative or partner
- Other arrangements e.g. non-registered childminder, baby-sitter, au-pair
- None

HE3 Do you pay any money in return for the care that your friend/relative or partner/other arrangement gives?

- Yes, do pay
- No, do not pay
- Refused
- Don't know

Asked if any children aged 3 or 4 years

HE4 Do you use the free part-time nursery places for 3 to 4 year olds?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Asked about one child in the household randomly chosen

HE5N I would like to ask you some questions specifically about the childcare that you use for (random child). Which of the following best describes the reasons why you are using that childcare for (random child)?

- For my child's development and for education
- To enable me/my partner to go to work
- To enable me/my partner to work more hours
- To improve my/my partner's choice of jobs
- To enable me/my partner to earn more money
- To enable me/my partner to study more
- To give me/my partner time to do other (non-work/study) things
- Other (write in)

HE5AN To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements in relation to (random child)?

- I am satisfied with the quality of the childcare that I use
- It is difficult for me to get to the childcare that I use
- Given my family income, I find it hard to pay for the childcare that I use
- The childcare that I use meets the needs of my child
- It was easy to get a place in the childcare that I use for my child
- The times of the childcare that is available to me are convenient
- It is difficult to find out what childcare is available around here

ANNEX 2 DETAILS OF REGRESSION ANALYSIS AND OUTPUT TABLES

1 Analyses were run using SAS logistic procedure (backward selection)²⁵. Two main sets of logistic regression analysis were run on use of childcare providers; using either *only* the demographic factors or using the *demographic factors and the reasons that parents had for using childcare*. Only those factors which were significant in predicting childcare use are included in the tables.

2 Logistic regression is a multivariate statistical technique that uses a set of independent variables to predict the probability of an event occurring. The odds of having a particular outcome are modelled. In this report, the models estimate the odds that a household with particular characteristics used childcare. Odds are calculated as $p/(1-p)$ where p is the proportion or percentage having the characteristic of interest. For example if 20% of a specific group received childcare, then the odds of receiving childcare for members of this group are: $0.2/0.8=0.25$ (or 0.25:1). If within another group 40% received childcare then the odds for this group are $0.4/0.6=0.67$ (or 0.67:1). We can then compare the groups by comparing the odds. The odds of receiving childcare for the second group are 2.68 ($0.67/0.25$) times *higher* than for the first group. This is the ‘odds ratio’. Therefore to calculate the odds ratios each subgroup (e.g. type of household) is compared with a ‘control group’.

3 The control groups for the analysis of the childcare data were chosen as those with the highest number of respondents. For example, ‘Highlands and Islands’ was chosen for the control group for area because the combination of local authorities within this group led to it having a higher number of respondents than either Glasgow or Edinburgh.

4 The model quality was assessed using the R-Sqd (Max) which represents how much of the data variability (of the dependent variable) is explained by the model. In the current analysis, less than 20% was seen to be a poor quality model, 20-39% an average quality model, 40% - 59% a decent quality model, and 60% and over a good quality model. The interactions between variables were examined, but none of these improved the quality of the models (in terms of R-Sqd) by more than 2% and so these were not included, in order to keep the models as simple as possible. It should be noted that the models relating to parents’ friends, relative/partner or registered childminder as childcare provider were poor and the results are therefore not presented in detail.

5 A ‘poor’ model is one where the variables available for analysis do not explain much of the variation in the dependant variable. For example, in the analyses presented in this report, the model for childcare by a friend was ‘poor’ suggesting that, although some of the demographic factors in the analysis were predictors of that type of childcare, they explained only a small part of the variation between households in the use of that type of childcare and therefore other factors not measured in the survey explained more. In contrast, the model for nursery use was ‘good’ indicating that the demographic factors which were significant in the

²⁵ Categorical Statistical Analysis using the SAS System, Stokes, Davis and Koch ,1997 , ISBN 1-55544-219-6 .

model (age of child and using childcare for child's development) explained most of the variation between households in their use of this type of childcare.

6 The tables for each type of childcare include the odds ratio and p-value for each variable (except the control group). An odds-ratio of 1 means that there is no difference between the two groups, an odds ratio of more than 1 means that the group has greater odds of receiving (that type of) childcare than the control group, and an odds ratio of less than 1 means that the group has lower odds of receiving (that type of) childcare than the control group. The p-values indicate whether an odds ratio is significantly different from what would have been expected to be found by chance (i.e. if there was no relationship between the variable and the outcome). A small p-value (less than 0.05) suggests that the true odds ratio is statistically different from 1.

7 In the tables in this Appendix the control groups are shown in italics. The odds ratios and p-values are given and a comment added to indicate whether each subgroup is significantly different from the control group. For example in Table 1 for the characteristics 'household type', small family was chosen as the control group because there were more families of this type than of the other types. The results show that large families have lower odds of using childcare than small families (0.70:1) and that single parent families have higher odds of using childcare than small families (1.49:1). As the p-values for both of these are less than 0.0001, we can say that these differences are statistically significant. Therefore it is concluded that household type is a predictor of using childcare. In contrast, in the same table it can be seen that compared with the control group of 'White Scottish', the odds of using childcare are 0.82:1 for 'White-other background; and 0.73:1 for 'Any other background' but as the p-values are large (greater than 0.05) these differences are not statistically significant. Therefore it is concluded that ethnicity of not a predictor of childcare use in this model.

Table 1: Predictors of children receiving any type of childcare, R-Square = 0.297

Base = 11,592

	Odds Ratio	P-Value	Description	95% Confidence Limits
Area				
<i>Highlands and Islands</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
Ayrshire	1.57	0.444	No difference	1.25 – 1.96
Central	2.00	0.001	More likely to use childcare	1.56 – 2.56
Dunbartonshire	1.18	0.030	More likely to use childcare	0.90 – 1.56
Edinburgh	2.41	<.0001	More likely to use childcare	1.86 – 3.11
Fife	1.57	0.444	No difference	1.25 – 1.98
Glasgow	1.35	0.273	No difference	1.05 – 1.74
Grampian	1.27	0.033	More likely to use childcare	1.03 – 1.57
Lothian	1.36	0.301	No difference	1.08 – 1.70
North Lanarkshire	1.96	0.001	More likely to use childcare	1.52 – 2.52
Renfrewshire and Inverclyde	1.15	0.002	More likely to use childcare	0.91 – 1.47
South Lanarkshire	1.55	0.568	No difference	1.22 – 1.97
Southern Scotland	1.43	0.722	No difference	1.12 – 1.82
Tayside	1.43	0.704	No difference	1.13 – 1.82
Ethnicity				
<i>White Scottish</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
White – other background	0.82	0.675	No difference	0.68 – 0.98
Any other background	0.73	0.108	No difference	0.57 – 0.93
Household type				
<i>Small family</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
Large family	0.70	<.0001	Less likely to use childcare	0.63 – 0.77
Single parent	1.49	<.0001	More likely to use childcare	1.21 – 1.83
Urban/rural classification				
<i>Large urban areas</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
Other urban	1.24	0.647	No difference	1.06 – 1.44
Small accessible towns	1.30	0.245	No difference	1.09 – 1.54
Small remote towns	1.28	0.630	No difference	0.95 – 1.72
Accessible rural	1.08	0.064	No difference	0.92 – 1.28
Remote rural	1.40	0.094	No difference	1.10 – 1.79
HH working status				
<i>Working couple</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
Single working adult	1.20	<.0001	More likely to use childcare	0.94 – 1.52
Non-working single	0.40	0.001	Less likely to use childcare	0.29 – 0.54
Couple, neither work	0.36	<.0001	Less likely to use childcare	0.27 – 0.48
Couple, one works	0.33	<.0001	Less likely to use childcare	0.29 – 0.37
Total net annual income				
<i>£30,001 - £40,000</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
£0 - £10,000	0.64	0.001	Less likely to use childcare	0.51 – 0.80
£10,001 - £15,000	0.72	0.015	Less likely to use childcare	0.59 – 0.87
£15,001 - £20,000	0.73	0.008	Less likely to use childcare	0.73 – 0.61
£20,001 - £25,000	0.71	0.001	Less likely to use childcare	0.61 – 0.83
£25,001 - £30,000	0.94	0.058	Less likely to use childcare	0.81 – 1.08
£40,001+	1.34	<.0001	More likely to use childcare	1.14 – 1.57
Employment status				
<i>Other</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
Managers	1.05	0.121	No difference	0.91 – 1.20
Employers	1.08	0.266	No difference	0.84 – 1.39
Supervisors	1.21	<.0001	More likely to use childcare	1.08 – 1.36
Self-employed employees	and 0.96	0.957	No difference	0.80 – 1.15
Sex of HiH				
<i>Male</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
Female	1.34	<.0001	More likely to use childcare	1.19 – 1.52
Access to car				
			<i>Control</i>	
Yes				
No	0.72	<.0001	Less likely to use childcare	0.62 – 0.83
Banded age of child				
<i>5-11</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
1-4	2.75	<.0001	More likely to use childcare	2.47 – 3.06
12-15	0.27	<.0001	Less likely to use childcare	0.24 – 0.30

Source: SHS 2003/2004

Table 2: Demographic characteristics of children receiving and not receiving childcare

Base: Children receiving childcare = 5,165; Children not receiving childcare = 6,352

<i>Total</i>	Children receiving childcare		Children not receiving childcare	
	Col %	45% Row %	Col %	55% Row %
Area				
Central	6%	54%	5%	46%
Dunbartonshire	4%	44%	4%	56%
Edinburgh	9%	53%	7%	47%
Glasgow	9%	36%	13%	64%
Grampian	9%	43%	10%	57%
Highlands and Islands	9%	39%	11%	61%
North Lanarkshire	7%	48%	6%	52%
Renfrewshire and Inverclyde	6%	40%	8%	60%
Household type				
Single parent	22%	48%	20%	52%
Small family	55%	51%	42%	49%
Large family	23%	33%	38%	67%
Household working status				
Single working adult	16%	61%	8%	39%
Non-working single	8%	29%	17%	71%
Working couple	58%	55%	39%	45%
Couple, one works	15%	31%	27%	69%
Couple, neither works	2%	19%	9%	81%
Banded age of children				
1-4	36%	66%	15%	34%
5-11	50%	48%	45%	52%
12-16	14%	23%	40%	77%
Total net annual income				
£0 - £6,000	1%	31%	2%	69%
£6,001 - £10,000	5%	32%	10%	68%
£10,001 - £15,000	13%	37%	18%	63%
£15,001 - £20,000	13%	40%	16%	60%
£20,001 - £25,000	15%	55%	15%	45%
£25,001 - £30,000	17%	49%	14%	51%
£30,001 - £40,000	22%	53%	16%	47%
£40,001+	13%	57%	8%	43%
Employment status				
Managers	16%	50%	13%	50%
Employers	3%	48%	3%	52%
Supervisors	25%	50%	19%	50%
Self-employed and employees	6%	43%	7%	57%
Others	38%	49%	32%	51%
Sex of HiH				
Male	62%	45%	62%	55%
Female	38%	45%	38%	55%
Urban/rural classification				
Large urban areas	35%	42%	38%	58%
Other urban	31%	47%	28%	53%
Small accessible towns	13%	48%	11%	52%
Small remote towns	3%	44%	3%	56%
Accessible rural	14%	44%	14%	56%
Remote rural	5%	43%	6%	57%
Access to car				
Yes	85%	48%	76%	52%
No	15%	34%	24%	66%

Source: SHS 2003/2004

Table 3: Predictors of children receiving informal childcare only, R-Square = 0.403

Base = 3,004

	Odds Ratio	P-Value	Description	95% Confidence Limits
Area				
<i>Highlands and Islands</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
Ayrshire	1.32	0.831	No difference	0.85 – 2.04
Central	1.29	0.925	No difference	0.81 – 2.05
Dunbartonshire	1.31	0.874	No difference	0.80 – 2.13
Edinburgh	0.80	0.002	Less likely to only receive informal	0.52 – 1.22
Fife	1.62	0.128	No difference	1.04 – 2.51
Glasgow	0.86	0.006	Less likely to only receive informal	0.57 – 1.30
Grampian	1.11	0.361	No difference	0.73 – 1.69
Lothian	1.04	0.201	No difference	0.67 – 1.61
North Lanarkshire	3.15	<.0001	More likely to only receive informal	1.97 – 5.01
Renfrewshire and Inverclyde	1.75	0.062	No difference	1.10 – 2.78
South Lanarkshire	1.34	0.771	No difference	0.85 – 2.11
Southern Scotland	1.26	0.949	No difference	0.76 – 2.07
Tayside	1.09	0.365	No difference	0.70 – 1.72
Ethnicity				
<i>White Scottish</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
Other white	0.54	0.029	Less likely to only receive informal	0.35 – 0.84
Any other ethnic group	0.95	0.442	No difference	0.52 – 1.73
Total net annual income				
<i>£30,001 - £40,000</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
£0 - £10,000	1.77	0.211	No difference	1.07 – 2.92
£10,001 - £15,000	2.61	<.0001	More likely to only receive informal	1.75 – 3.88
£15,001 - £20,000	1.62	0.199	No difference	1.15 – 2.30
£20,001 - £25,000	1.74	0.037	More likely to only receive informal	1.29 – 2.35
£25,001 - £30,000	1.19	0.167	No difference	0.89 – 1.58
£40,001+	0.67	<.0001	Less likely to only receive informal	0.48 – 0.90
No of dependent children				
1			<i>Control</i>	
2	1.17	0.040	More likely to only receive informal	0.97 – 1.41
3	1.48	0.896	No difference	1.06 – 2.07
4 or more	3.01	0.031	More likely to only receive informal	1.30 – 6.96
Household working status				
<i>Working couple</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
Single working adult	0.50	0.001	Less likely to only receive informal	0.37 – 0.68
Non-working single	0.84	0.791	No difference	0.50 – 1.40
Couple, neither work	0.88	0.740	No difference	0.42 – 1.81
Couple, one works	0.89	0.466	No difference	0.63 – 1.24
Banded age of child				
<i>5-11</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
1-4	0.45	<.0001	Less likely to only receive informal	0.38 – 0.56
12-16	8.12	<.0001	More likely to only receive informal	5.38 – 12.27
For child's development				
No			<i>Control</i>	
Yes	0.14	<.0001	Less likely to only receive informal	0.11 – 0.18
To work				
Yes			<i>Control</i>	
No	1.32	0.038	More likely to only receive informal	1.02 – 1.73
To study/study more				
No			<i>Control</i>	
Yes	0.52	0.004	Less likely to only receive informal	0.34 – 0.81
To give more time				
No			<i>Control</i>	
Yes	2.91	<.0001	More likely to only receive informal	2.15 – 3.95

Source: SHS 2003/2004

Household type, housing tenure, urban/rural, HiH economic status, gender of HiH, car access removed from final model as they were not significant

Table 4: Predictors of children receiving formal childcare only, R-Square = 0.276

Base = 3,004

	Odds Ratio	P-Value	Description	95% Confidence Limits
Area				
<i>Highlands and Islands</i>				
<i>Control</i>				
Ayrshire	1.02	0.184	No difference	0.65 – 1.59
Central	0.65	0.247	No difference	0.41 – 1.08
Dunbartonshire	0.97	0.371	No difference	0.60 – 1.58
Edinburgh	1.22	0.008	More likely to only use formal	0.79 – 1.87
Fife	0.43	0.001	Less likely to only use formal	0.26 – 0.70
Glasgow	1.35	0.000	More likely to only use formal	0.89 – 2.04
Grampian	0.99	0.186	No difference	0.65 – 1.51
Lothian	0.83	0.960	No difference	0.53 – 1.30
North Lanarkshire	0.44	0.001	Less likely to only use formal	0.27 – 0.72
Renfrewshire and Inverclyde	0.76	0.657	No difference	0.48 – 1.21
South Lanarkshire	0.78	0.783	No difference	0.49 – 1.25
Southern Scotland	0.73	0.552	No difference	0.44 – 1.21
Tayside	0.87	0.750	No difference	0.55 – 1.38
Household working status				
<i>Working couple</i>				
<i>Control</i>				
Single working adult	1.48	0.935	No difference	0.89 – 2.46
Non-working single	1.37	0.679	No difference	0.74 – 2.55
Couple, neither work	2.39	0.089	No difference	1.21 – 4.71
Couple, one works	1.57	0.790	No difference	1.15 – 2.13
Total net annual income				
<i>£30,001 - £40,000</i>				
<i>Control</i>				
£0 - £10,000	0.69	0.808	No difference	0.42 – 1.13
£10,001 - £15,000	0.39	<.0001	Less likely to only use formal	0.26 – 0.59
£15,001 - £20,000	0.86	0.135	No difference	0.61 – 1.21
£20,001 - £25,000	0.59	0.078	No difference	0.44 – 0.80
£25,001 - £30,000	0.63	0.248	No difference	0.46 – 0.84
£40,001+	1.17	0.000	More likely to only use formal	0.86 – 1.59
Family type				
<i>Couple with 1-2 children</i>				
<i>Control</i>				
Single parent family	1.17	0.104	No difference	0.73– 1.86
Couple with 3+ children	0.60	0.008	Less likely to only use formal	0.41 – 0.88
Banded age of child				
<i>5-11</i>				
<i>Control</i>				
1-4	2.09	<.0001	More likely to only use formal	1.71 – 2.55
12-16	0.14	<.0001	Less likely to only use formal	0.08 – 0.23
For child's development				
<i>No</i>				
<i>Control</i>				
Yes	1.98	<.0001	More likely to only use formal	1.59– 2.47
To give more time				
<i>No</i>				
<i>Control</i>				
Yes	0.14	<.0001	Less likely to only use formal	0.09 – 0.24

Source: SHS 2003/2004

Housing tenure, urban/rural, ethnicity, number of dependent children, HiH economic status, gender of HiH, car access removed from final model as they were not significant

Table 5: Demographic characteristics of children receiving formal and informal childcare

Base: Children receiving formal childcare = 1,424; Children receiving informal childcare = 3,014; Children receiving both formal and informal childcare = 714

<i>Total</i>	Formal Childcare		Informal Childcare		Both	
	28%		58%		14%	
	Col %	Row %	Col %	Row %	Col %	Row %
Area						
Edinburgh	10%	31%	8%	53%	10%	16%
Fife	5%	19%	8%	64%	10%	18%
Glasgow	12%	38%	8%	50%	7%	11%
North Lanarkshire	4%	17%	9%	74%	9%	9%
Ethnicity						
White	91%	28%	94%	59%	90%	13%
Other white background	6%	31%	5%	50%	7%	19%
Any other background	3%	16%	1%	84%	3%	-
Banded net annual income						
£0 - £6,000	1%	20%	1%	61%	2%	19%
£6,001 - £10,000	6%	29%	6%	61%	10%	10%
£10,001 - £15,000	11%	23%	15%	66%	11%	11%
£15,001 - £20,000	15%	32%	13%	58%	10%	10%
£20,001 - £25,000	15%	27%	16%	60%	13%	12%
£25,001 - £30,000	15%	25%	17%	58%	21%	17%
£30,001 - £40,000	23%	29%	21%	56%	24%	15%
£40,001+	15%	32%	11%	50%	17%	18%
Household working status						
Single working adult	17%	29%	16%	57%	16%	13%
Non-working single	7%	24%	10%	68%	5%	9%
Working couple	56%	27%	58%	58%	63%	15%
Couple, one works	17%	33%	13%	54%	15%	14%
Couple, neither works	3%	35%	2%	57%	1%	8%
Family type						
Single parent family	22%	28%	23%	58%	22%	13%
Couple with 1-2 children	14%	30%	19%	56%	16%	14%
Couple with 3+ children	64%	22%	58%	65%	62%	13%
Banded age of children						
1-4	58%	45%	21%	34%	54%	21%
5-11	40%	22%	56%	66%	44%	12%
12-16	3%	5%	23%	92%	3%	3%
Number of dependent children						
1	30%	32%	24%	52%	31%	16%
2	51%	28%	51%	58%	50%	14%
3	14%	23%	19%	64%	17%	13%
4	3%	22%	5%	70%	2%	8%
5 or more	1%	27%	1%	73%	-	-

- = no respondents in that cell

Source: SHS 2003/2004

Table 6: Predictors that children would attend nursery or playgroups, R-Square = 0.666

Base = 3,304

	Odds Ratio	P-Value	Description	95% Confidence Limits
Urban/rural classification				
<i>Large urban areas</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
Other urban areas	0.61	0.317	No difference	0.44 – 0.83
Small accessible towns	0.42	0.008	Less likely to attend nurseries	0.27 – 0.66
Small remote towns	0.44	0.175	No difference	0.20 – 0.98
Accessible rural	0.83	0.317	No difference	0.56 – 1.23
Remote rural	1.20	0.058	No difference	0.63 – 2.33
Banded age of child				
<i>5-11</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
1-4	44.75	<.0001	More likely to attend nurseries	30.36 – 66.00
12-16	*	*	*	-
For child's development				
No			<i>Control</i>	
Yes	9.52	<.0001	More likely to attend nurseries	7.26 – 12.50
To study / study more				
No			<i>Control</i>	
Yes	1.81	0.010	More likely to attend nurseries	1.03 – 3.18
To give more time				
No			<i>Control</i>	
Yes	0.53	0.019	Less likely to attend nurseries	0.37 – 0.76

* = there were no respondents in this cell, i.e. no 12-16 year olds attending nurseries or playgroups

Source: SHS 2003/2004

Area, household type, housing tenure, household working status, ethnicity, income, number of dependent children, HiH economic status, gender of HiH, car access removed from final model as they were not significant

Table 7: Demographic characteristics of children who attend and do not attend nursery/playgroups

Base: Child does attend nursery/playgroup = 1,095; Child does not attend nursery/playgroup = 10,422

Total	Attends nursery or playgroup		Does not attend nursery or playgroup	
	Col %	Row %	Col %	Row %
		10%		90%
Urban/rural classification				
Large urban areas	40%	11%	36%	89%
Other urban	27%	9%	29%	91%
Small accessible towns	10%	8%	12%	92%
Small remote towns	3%	10%	3%	90%
Accessible rural	16%	11%	14%	89%
Remote rural	5%	9%	6%	91%
Banded age of children				
1-4	95%	38%	13%	62%
5-11	5%	18%	17%	82%
12-16	-	-	22%	100%

- = no respondents in that cell

Source: SHS 2003/2004

Table 8: Predictors of children receiving Out of School Care (OSC), R-Square = 0.340

Base = 3,304

	Odds Ratio	P-Value	Description	95% Confidence Limits
Area				
<i>Highlands and Islands</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
Ayrshire	0.73	0.309	No difference	0.41 – 1.31
Central	0.86	0.815	No difference	0.47 – 1.58
Dunbartonshire	1.31	0.143	No difference	0.69 – 2.48
Edinburgh	1.34	0.033	More likely to receive OSC	0.78 – 2.27
Fife	0.59	0.061	No difference	0.32 – 1.09
Glasgow	1.90	<.0001	More likely to receive OSC	1.12 – 3.21
Grampian	0.83	0.647	No difference	0.47 – 1.45
Lothian	0.98	0.732	No difference	0.55 – 1.72
North Lanarkshire	0.34	0.000	Less likely to receive OSC	0.17 – 0.68
Renfrewshire and Inverclyde	0.79	0.556	No difference	0.42 – 1.47
South Lanarkshire	1.00	0.667	No difference	0.55 – 1.82
Southern Scotland	1.07	0.513	No difference	0.56 – 2.06
Tayside	0.92	0.950	No difference	0.51 – 1.69
Household type				
			<i>Control</i>	
<i>Small family</i>				
Large family	0.98	0.040	Less likely to receive OSC	0.71 – 1.37
Single parent	1.95	0.000	More likely to receive OSC	1.38 – 2.76
Total net annual income				
<i>£30,001 - £40,000</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
£0 - £10,000	0.52	0.109	No difference	0.28 – 0.94
£10,001 - £15,000	0.44	0.003	Less likely to receive OSC	0.27 – 0.72
£15,001 – £20,000	0.70	0.640	No difference	0.45 – 1.08
£20,001 - £25,000	0.58	0.094	No difference	0.39 – 0.87
£25,001 - £30,000	0.89	0.233	No difference	0.61 – 1.29
£40,001+	1.58	<.0001	More likely to receive OSC	1.07 – 2.34
Banded age of child				
<i>5-11</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
1-4	0.02	<.0001	Less likely to receive OSC	0.01 – 0.03
12-16	0.14	0.010	Less likely to receive OSC	0.09 – 0.22
For child's development				
No			<i>Control</i>	
Yes	2.78	<.0001	More likely to receive OSC	1.95 – 3.98
To study/study more				
No			<i>Control</i>	
Yes	1.78	0.027	More likely to receive OSC	1.07 – 2.99
To give more time				
No			<i>Control</i>	
Yes	0.29	<.0001	Less likely to receive OSC	0.19 – 0.44

Source: SHS 2003/2004

Housing tenure, urban/rural, ethnicity, household working status, number of dependent children, HiH economic status, gender of HiH, car access removed from final model as they were not significant

Table 9: Demographic characteristics of children who attend and do not attend Out of School Care

Base: Child does attend OSC = 901; Child does not attend OSC = 10,616

<i>Total</i>	Attends OSC		Does not OSC	
	Col %	Row %	Col %	Row %
		8%		92%
Area				
Edinburgh	13%	11%	7%	89%
Glasgow	12%	7%	11%	93%
North Lanarkshire	3%	3%	7%	97%
Household type				
Single parent	26%	8%	21%	92%
Small family	52%	7%	47%	93%
Large family	22%	5%	32%	95%
Total net annual income				
£0 - £6,000	1%	2%	2%	98%
£6,001 - £10,000	4%	4%	8%	96%
£10,001 - £15,000	11%	4%	16%	96%
£15,001 - £20,000	13%	6%	15%	94%
£20,001 - £25,000	12%	5%	15%	95%
£25,001 - £30,000	17%	7%	15%	93%
£30,001 - £40,000	22%	8%	19%	92%
£40,001+	20%	13%	10%	87%
Banded age of children				
1-4	4%	1%	26%	99%
5-11	90%	12%	44%	88%
12-16	6%	2%	30%	98%
No of dependent children				
1	25%	7%	25%	93%
2	54%	7%	48%	93%
3	17%	5%	20%	95%
4	3%	4%	5%	96%
5 or more	1%	4%	2%	96%

Source: SHS 2003/2004

Table 10: Demographic characteristics of children cared for and not cared for by registered childminders

Base: Children cared for by registered childminders = 442; Children not cared for by registered childminder = 11,095

<i>Total</i>	Cared for by registered childminder		Not cared for by registered childminder	
	Col%	Row %	Col %	Row %
		4%		96%
Area				
Edinburgh	7%	3%	8%	97%
Glasgow	3%	1%	11%	99%
Highlands and Islands	14%	5%	10%	95%
Lothian	13%	7%	7%	93%
North Lanarkshire	2%	1%	7%	99%
Household type				
Single parent	24%	4%	21%	96%
Small family	59%	4%	47%	96%
Large family	17%	2%	32%	98%
Urban/rural classification				
Large urban areas	16%	2%	37%	98%
Other urban	31%	4%	29%	96%
Small accessible towns	18%	5%	12%	95%
Small remote towns	5%	7%	3%	93%
Accessible rural	23%	6%	14%	94%
Remote rural	6%	4%	5%	96%
Household working status				
Single working adult	23%	7%	12%	93%
Non-working single	2%	1%	14%	99%
Working couple	66%	5%	47%	95%
Couple, one works	9%	1%	22%	99%
Couple, neither works	*	*	6%	100%
Total net annual income				
£0 - £6,000	*	1%	2%	99%
£6,001 - £10,000	3%	1%	8%	99%
£10,001 - £15,000	7%	2%	16%	98%
£15,001 - £20,000	9%	2%	15%	98%
£20,001 - £25,000	15%	4%	15%	96%
£25,001 - £30,000	20%	5%	15%	95%
£30,001 - £40,000	31%	6%	18%	94%
£40,001+	16%	5%	10%	95%
Banded age of children				
1-4	47%	7%	24%	93%
5-11	49%	4%	47%	96%
12-16	5%	*	30%	100%

* = less than 0.5%

Source: SHS 2003/2004

Table 11: Demographic characteristics of children receiving and not receiving childcare from parent's friends

Base: Uses friends as providers = 792; Does not use friends = 10,725

<i>Total</i>	Receives childcare from parents' friends		Does not receive childcare from parents' friends	
	7%		93%	
	Col %	Row %	Col %	Row %
Banded age of children				
1-4	22%	6%	25%	94%
5-11	59%	8%	46%	92%
12-16	19%	5%	30%	95%
No of dependent children				
1	22%	6%	25%	94%
2	53%	7%	48%	93%
3	21%	7%	20%	93%
4	5%	6%	5%	94%
5 or more	-	-	2%	100%
Ethnicity				
White Scottish	88%	7%	91%	93%
White – Other	10%	10%	7%	90%
Other	2%	4%	2%	96%
Household working status				
Single working adult	18%	10%	12%	90%
Non-working single	11%	6%	13%	94%
Working couple	52%	7%	47%	93%
Couple, one works	17%	5%	22%	95%
Couple, neither works	2%	2%	6%	98%
Housing tenure				
Owned outright	7%	7%	7%	93%
Buying with help of loan/mortgage	61%	7%	59%	93%
Rent – LA/SH	15%	5%	19%	95%
Rent – HA, Co-op	6%	5%	8%	95%
Rent – private landlord	10%	11%	6%	89%
Other	2%	8%	2%	92%
Total net annual income				
£0 - £6,000	2%	10%	2%	90%
£6,001 - £10,000	4%	4%	8%	96%
£10,001 - £15,000	15%	7%	16%	93%
£15,001 - £20,000	12%	5%	15%	95%
£20,001+	66%	8%	58%	92%
Household type				
Single parent	26%	8%	21%	92%
Small family	49%	7%	48%	93%
Large family	25%	5%	32%	95%
Urban/rural classification				
Large urban areas	28%	5%	37%	95%
Other urban	30%	7%	29%	93%
Small accessible towns	11%	6%	12%	94%
Small remote towns	3%	6%	3%	94%
Accessible rural	18%	9%	14%	91%
Remote rural	10%	12%	5%	88%

- = no respondents in that cell

Source: SHS 2003/2004

Table 12: Demographic characteristics of children cared for and not cared for by relative/partner of HiH

Base: Children cared for by relative/partner of HiH = 3,246; Children not cared for by relative/partner of HiH = 8,271

<i>Total</i>	Cared for by relative/partner of HiH		Not cared for by relative/partner of HiH	
	Col%	Row %	Col %	Row %
		28%		72%
Area				
Dunbartonshire	4%	26%	4%	74%
Edinburgh	8%	30%	7%	70%
Fife	9%	35%	7%	65%
Glasgow	8%	19%	13%	81%
North Lanarkshire	8%	37%	5%	63%
Ethnicity				
White Scottish	94%	29%	89%	71%
White – Other	5%	20%	8%	80%
Other	2%	16%	2%	84%
Household working status				
Single working adult	16%	37%	10%	63%
Non-working single	9%	20%	15%	80%
Working couple	59%	35%	43%	65%
Couple, one works	13%	18%	24%	82%
Couple, neither works	13%	10%	7%	90%
Total net annual income				
£0 - £6,000	1%	19%	2%	81%
£6,001 - £10,000	6%	21%	9%	79%
£10,001 - £15,000	14%	26%	16%	74%
£15,001 - £20,000	12%	24%	15%	76%
£20,001 - £25,000	16%	30%	15%	70%
£25,001 - £30,000	18%	33%	14%	67%
£30,001 - £40,000	21%	32%	18%	68%
£40,001+	11%	31%	10%	69%
Banded age of children				
1-4	28%	52%	23%	48%
5-11	53%	32%	44%	68%
12-16	19%	18%	33%	82%
No of dependent children				
1	26%	30%	24%	70%
2	51%	30%	47%	70%
3	17%	25%	21%	75%
4	5%	25%	6%	75%
5 or more	1%	12%	3%	88%

Source: SHS 2003/2004

Table 13: Reasons for using childcare by demographic characteristics

Base: Parents of randomly selected child who use childcare for various reasons: For child's development = 827; To work = 2,170; To study/study more = 150; To give more time to do other things = 569

	Child's development	To work	Study/ Study more	More time to do other things
<i>Total</i>	24%	64%	4%	17%
Banded age of children				
1-4	45%	58%	5%	15%
5-11	16%	67%	5%	17%
12-16	9%	67%	3%	20%
No of dependent children				
1	24%	68%	6%	15%
2	25%	64%	4%	17%
3	24%	55%	4%	20%
4	26%	44%	2%	31%
5 or more	45%	25%	-	18%
Household working status				
Single working adult	11%	86%	2%	7%
Non-working single	35%	7%	15%	47%
Working couple	21%	78%	2%	10%
Couple, one works	45%	26%	11%	36%
Couple, neither works	53%	3%	10%	34%
Total net annual income				
£0 - £10,000	35%	27%	9%	36%
£10,001 - £15,000	24%	55%	6%	22%
£15,001 - £20,000	26%	58%	6%	18%
£20,001 - £25,000	23%	67%	3%	14%
£25,001 - £30,000	24%	68%	3%	14%
£30,001 - £40,000	23%	74%	3%	11%
£40,001+	23%	76%	3%	14%
Housing tenure				
Owned outright	23%	52%	6%	26%
Buying with help of loan/mortgage	24%	71%	3%	12%
Rent – LA/SH	24%	48%	6%	25%
Rent – HA, Co-op	32%	46%	7%	23%
Rent – private landlord	31%	53%	7%	27%
Household type				
Single parent	21%	60%	6%	19%
Small family	27%	68%	4%	15%
Large family	22%	56%	5%	20%
Urban/rural classification				
Large urban areas	26%	62%	5%	15%
Other urban	22%	67%	4%	16%
Small accessible towns	24%	66%	5%	17%
Small remote towns	28%	62%	2%	18%
Accessible rural	27%	62%	5%	19%
Remote rural	24%	55%	3%	24%

- = no respondents in that cell

Source: SHS 2003/2004

Table 14: Predictors of parents being satisfied with quality of childcare, R-Square = 0.477

Base = 1,639

	Odds Ratio	P-Value	Description	95% Confidence Limits
Area				
<i>Highlands and Islands</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
Ayrshire	1.61	0.575	No difference	0.78-3.32
Central	1.72	0.403	No difference	0.85-3.51
Dunbartonshire	1.94	0.242	No difference	0.91-4.14
Edinburgh	0.91	0.050	Less likely to be satisfied	0.54-1.70
Fife	0.67	0.003	Less likely to be satisfied	0.35-1.31
Glasgow	0.81	0.006	Less likely to be satisfied	0.45-1.47
Grampian	1.44	0.828	No difference	0.77-2.70
Lothian	1.68	0.479	No difference	0.81-3.44
North Lanarkshire	2.85	0.032	More likely to be satisfied	1.23-6.61
Renfrewshire and Inverclyde	1.12	0.457	No difference	0.54-2.31
South Lanarkshire	1.63	0.547	No difference	0.78-3.39
Southern Scotland	1.46	0.823	No difference	0.72-3.08
Tayside	1.79	0.316	No difference	0.90-3.57
Ethnicity				
<i>White Scottish</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
Other white background	1.36	0.018	More likely to be satisfied	0.81-2.28
Any other background	0.34	0.016	Less likely to be satisfied	0.13-0.90
Registered childminder				
Yes			<i>Control</i>	
No	1.56	0.032	More likely to be satisfied	1.04-2.35
Difficulty getting to childcare				
<i>Strongly disagree</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
Strongly agree	0.61	0.867	No difference	0.07-0.44
Tend to agree	0.61	0.858	No difference	0.32-1.16
Neither agree nor disagree	0.55	0.574	No difference	0.31-1.01
Tend to disagree	0.50	0.080	Less likely to be satisfied	0.36-0.69
Childcare meeting needs of child				
<i>Strongly agree</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
Tend to agree	0.13	0.284	No difference	0.09-0.17
Neither agree nor disagree	0.05	0.001	Less likely to be satisfied	0.02-0.11
Tend to disagree	0.08	0.050	No difference	0.03-0.18
Strongly disagree	0.17	0.760	No difference	0.07-0.44
Times of childcare convenient				
<i>Strongly agree</i>				
			<i>Control</i>	
Tend to agree	0.31	0.071	No difference	0.23-0.43
Neither agree nor disagree	0.23	0.050	Less likely to be satisfied	0.11-0.47
Tend to disagree	0.39	0.851	No difference	0.22-0.69
Strongly disagree	0.39	0.917	No difference	0.19-0.81

Source: SHS 2003/2004

Household type, housing tenure, urban/rural, household working status, age of child, income, number of dependent children, HiH economic status, gender of HiH, car access removed from final model as they were not significant

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