

Making life better for children and families in our county

Your views of childcare

A survey of parents and carers by Oxfordshire County Council

**If you have a child or children aged birth to 17 years then please
complete this questionnaire**

Oxfordshire County Council is researching the availability of childcare for families and would value your views, to ensure that all parents have choice and flexibility in balancing family and work life.

This questionnaire is anonymous and is being administered by a research organisation called Cordis Bright. Results will be presented to Oxfordshire County Council but no one will be able to identify you or your response from it.

Please complete and return this questionnaire by **Tuesday, 6 November 2007**. See the end of the questionnaire for details on how to return the form. For further information about this research, or if you would like access to this document in an additional language, please contact Liane Low at Oxfordshire County Council on 01865 810 517 or liane.low@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Section A – Your children

(1) How many children do you have? (Please write in the number in the box)

(2) How old are your children? (Please write their ages in years in the boxes below)

Child 1

Child 2

Child 3

Child 4

Child 5

Child 6

Section B – Childcare that you use for your youngest child

Please answer this section thinking about your youngest (or only) child in your household.

(1) Age of child (please state):

(2) Is your child disabled?

Yes

No

If yes, what type of impairment does your child have?

Go to (3)

Specific Learning Difficulty

Moderate Learning Difficulty

Severe Learning Difficulty

Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty

Behaviour, Emotional & Social Difficulty

Speech, Language & Communication Need

Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Visual Impairment

Hearing Impairment

Multi-Sensory Impairment

Physical Disability

Other.....

Prefer not to say

(3) Which of these types of childcare do you use for your youngest child? Tick all that apply

No childcare used

→ Go to Section C

Childminder

Day nursery

Pre-school or playgroup

Nursery class in school

Crèche

Nanny or au pair

Breakfast club

After-school club

Holiday playscheme

Family or friends

Other (please state).....

(4) In a typical week how many hours of childcare (all types) do you use for this child?

hours

(5) Where is your childcare located?

Within Oxfordshire

Outside Oxfordshire

A mixture of both

(6) Do your childcare arrangements for this child meet your needs?

Yes fully

Yes partly

No

(7) How, if at all, could the childcare you use for this child be improved? Tick all that apply

Available at different times

Before 7am

More flexible sessions, e.g. drop ins or a few hours

7am-8am

8am-6pm

More affordable

After 6pm

Different location

Closer to home

Closer to work or study

Closer to sibling's school

Other.....

Childcare that is better at meeting my child's additional needs or disability

I would like to use more childcare or a different type of childcare (excluding family and friends)

Childminder

Day nursery

Pre-school or playgroup

Nursery class in school

Crèche

Nanny or au pair

Breakfast club

After school club

Other.....

Better quality provision

No improvements needed

Other (please state)

.....

Section C – Childcare that you use for your second youngest child

Please answer this section thinking about your second youngest child in your household. If you do not have any other children, please proceed to Section D.

(1) Age of child (please state):

(2) Is your child disabled? Yes No

If yes, what type of impairment does your child have?

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Learning Difficulty | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate Learning Difficulty | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Learning Difficulty | <input type="checkbox"/> Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behaviour, Emotional & Social Difficulty | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech, Language & Communication Need | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autistic Spectrum Disorder | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Sensory Impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Other..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(3) Which of these types of childcare do you use for this child? Tick all that apply

- No childcare used → Go to Section D
- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childminder | <input type="checkbox"/> Day nursery | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-school or playgroup | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery class in school | <input type="checkbox"/> Crèche | <input type="checkbox"/> Nanny or au pair | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast club | <input type="checkbox"/> After-school club | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday playscheme | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)..... | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(4) In a typical week how many hours of childcare (all types) do you use for this child? hours

(5) Where is your childcare located?

- Within Oxfordshire Outside Oxfordshire A mixture of both

(6) Do your childcare arrangements for this child meet your needs?

- Yes fully Yes partly No

(7) How, if at all, could the childcare you use for this child be improved? Tick all that apply

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Available at different times | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Before 7am
<input type="checkbox"/> 7am-8am
<input type="checkbox"/> 8am-6pm
<input type="checkbox"/> After 6pm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More flexible sessions, e.g. drop ins or a few hours | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More affordable | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Different location | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Closer to home
<input type="checkbox"/> Closer to work or study
<input type="checkbox"/> Closer to sibling's school
<input type="checkbox"/> Other..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare that is better at meeting my child's additional needs or disability | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to use more childcare or a different type of childcare (excluding family and friends) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Childminder
<input type="checkbox"/> Day nursery
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-school or playgroup
<input type="checkbox"/> Nursery class in school
<input type="checkbox"/> Crèche
<input type="checkbox"/> Nanny or au pair
<input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast club
<input type="checkbox"/> After school club
<input type="checkbox"/> Other..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better quality provision | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No improvements needed | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Section D – Reasons for using childcare and costs

(1) What are your main reasons for using childcare? Tick all that apply

- I do not use childcare* → Go to Section G
- I go to work* *To have time to myself*
- To spend time with other family members* *I am studying*
- Social or learning benefits for my child* *To have access to activities / trips*
- To attend appointments (e.g. interviews, GP)* *Other.....*

(2) In an average week approximately how much do you spend on childcare for all of your children?

£

(3) Do you receive any help towards the cost of your childcare? Yes No

If yes, which of the following do you use:

- Working tax credit (childcare element)* *Childcare vouchers*
- Nursery education fund* *Employer contribution*
- Other.....*

Section E – School holidays

Do you require childcare that you pay for during school holidays? For example, a summer playscheme? Yes No

If yes, how are your requirements different from a typical work-day in school term time? Tick all that apply

- About the same* *More hours required*
- Less hours required* *Different locations required*
- Different types of childcare required* *Other.....*

Do your childcare arrangements over the school holidays meet your needs?

- Yes fully Yes partly No

Section F – Your views on childcare

(1) Please tell us how much you agree with the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree or disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
<i>I am very satisfied with my current childcare</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>The quality of childcare is high</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>There is good choice of childcare in Oxfordshire</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Childcare is well located</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Childcare caters for my children's needs</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Childcare is good value for money</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Childcare is too expensive</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>I would like my child to attend more childcare (excluding family / friends)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(2) Please tell us how much you agree with the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree or disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
<i>I would prefer to use family or friends to care for my child</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>I have a problem with childcare arrangements that break down often</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Travel or transport to my childcare provider is a big problem for me</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section G – Reasons for not using childcare

Please complete this question if you have not used childcare in the past 12 months. If this does not apply to you please proceed to Section H.

Which of the following reasons best describe why you do not currently use childcare? Tick all that apply

- I choose not to use childcare*
- My children are old enough to look after themselves*
- My partner / family look after my children*
- There is no childcare available at the times that I need it*
- There is no childcare with appropriately qualified or trained staff*
- There is no childcare of sufficient quality*
- There is no childcare available that is suitable for the age of my child*
- There is no childcare that is in the right location*
- There is no childcare that can be flexible in response to unpredictable attendance, e.g. medical appointment, illness*
- There is no childcare that can cater for my child's disability or additional needs*
- There is no childcare that can cater for my child's cultural needs*
- Childcare is too expensive*
- I only use childcare on a short-term basis and it is impossible to plan*
- Other (please state).....*

Section H – About you

This information is optional and will not be used to identify you. Your response will help us ensure that childcare addresses your needs.

(1) What is your full home postcode?

(2) Are you... *Male* *Female*

(3) Are you living as a...
Lone parent *Two parent family* *Other*

(4) Are you... (Tick all that apply)

<i>Working full-time</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Working part-time</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Working shifts</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Working nights</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Working weekends</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Full-time parent/carer</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Looking for work</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Studying/training</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Other.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>

(5) If you have a partner, is he / she... (Tick all that apply)

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Working full-time | <input type="checkbox"/> | Working part-time | <input type="checkbox"/> | Working shifts | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Working nights | <input type="checkbox"/> | Working weekends | <input type="checkbox"/> | Full-time parent/carer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Looking for work | <input type="checkbox"/> | Studying/training | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(6) What is your total household income?

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| £Zero | <input type="checkbox"/> | £1-£3,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> | £4,000-£7,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| £8,000-£11,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> | £12,000-£16,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> | £17,000-£23,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| £24,000-£36,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> | £37,000 or more | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(7) What is your ethnic group?

Our ethnic background describes how we think of ourselves. Ethnic background is not the same as nationality or country of birth. You are asked to choose the ethnic group that is closest to you.

White

- White British
- White Irish
- Any other White background

Black or Black British

- Caribbean
- African
- Any other Black background

Asian or Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Any other Asian background

Mixed

- White & Black Caribbean
- White & Black African
- White & Asian
- Any other Mixed background

Chinese or Other ethnic group

- Chinese
- Any other group

Don't know or don't want to say

Section I – Any other comments

If you have any other comments about childcare please include them here:

If you have any further comments about childcare please contact Liane Low on 01865 810517 or liane.low@oxfordshire.gov.uk. If you would like help in choosing childcare please contact the Children's Information Service on 08452 262636 or visit www.oxoncis.org.uk

Prize draw

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. All those who complete a questionnaire are eligible to enter a prize draw to win £100 in high street vouchers. If you would like to be included please provide your details below. Your details will not be used for any other purpose.

Your name:

Telephone:

**Thank you for taking part in this survey.
Please return your questionnaire in the envelope provided or FREEPOST to
Cordis Bright, FREEPOST LON19516, 25 City Road, London EC1Y 1AA.**