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# **The impact of the Early Years Foundation Stage [EYFS] on Registered Childminders**

**Data Section**

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## Data Section

### Do today’s childminders welcome the EYFS?

#### Introduction

The data collected from 168 Registered Childminders in Hampshire is primarily aimed at answering the question “The impact of the Early Years Foundation Stage [EYFS] on Childminders?” Analysis of the questionnaire responses has allowed this question plus many others to be addressed. Full analysis can be found of each question asked at Appendix B for overall responses and D for Network to Non-Network comparisons.

#### Limitations to the analysis

Publicly available statistics offered by The Office for Standards in Education [Ofsted] (Dec 2011) show that there are 39500 active registered childminders in England. Of those, the highest Local Authority with registered childminders in the country is Hampshire with 1460.

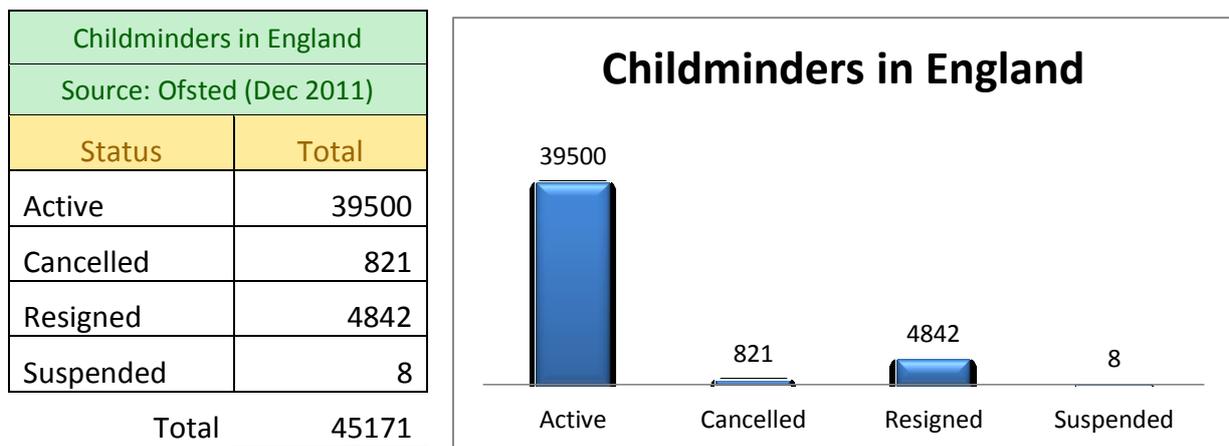


Figure 1 - Childminders in England. Source: Ofsted (Dec 2011)

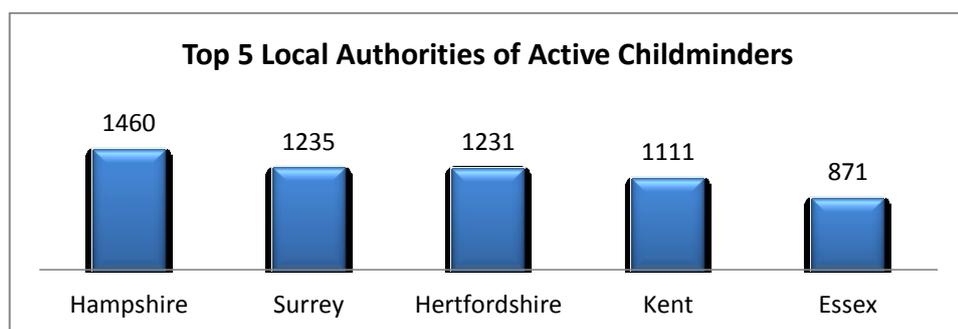


Figure 2 - Top 5 Local Authorities of Active Childminders. Source: Ofsted (Dec 2011)

This survey represents 11.5% of the total Hampshire actively registered childminders. Full data is available at Appendix C.

However, Network childminders completing the questionnaire have already had to meet the stringent requirements of joining the network and therefore represent:

- well motivated.
- having mostly Good or Outstanding Ofsted Inspection grades.
- educated to, or working towards Level 3.
- prepared to give up their own time to conduct further training.
- ready to conduct additional inspections by NCMA Network coordinators.
- mostly embracing of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Due to the disproportionate number of Network childminders completing the questionnaire, all questions will be biased due to the traits already identified. This places a known limitation on the interpretation and analysis to be conducted. Notwithstanding these limitations, the analysis can be considered viable where similarities in views and opinions are shared between the Network and Non-Network replies.

Although Non-Network questionnaires only represent 22% of the overall replies, where there is clear discrepancy between the views of the Network and Non-Network subset these will be displayed separately.

## **Analysis of Questionnaires**

### **Demographics**

"Miller (2008) states that childcare workforce is "predominantly female." This study supports Miller with 97% questionnaires being completed by females.

### Awareness of EYFS

Nearly all the respondents acknowledged they had awareness of the EYFS with almost three-quarters having a wide-ranging understanding and sound knowledge. The study also agrees with the NCMA view, who found that most members supported a single framework for childminders.

### View of Childminding as a Career

Drawing from the findings, 86% of childminders viewed their childminding as a long-term career. The introduction of EYFS has not affected over three-quarters as they have continued working. This data reveals childminders are embracing their career choice, demonstrating longevity in their jobs and understanding of the EYFS. Nearly two-thirds of the childminders have been minding for more than eight years.

### Challenges of working within EYFS

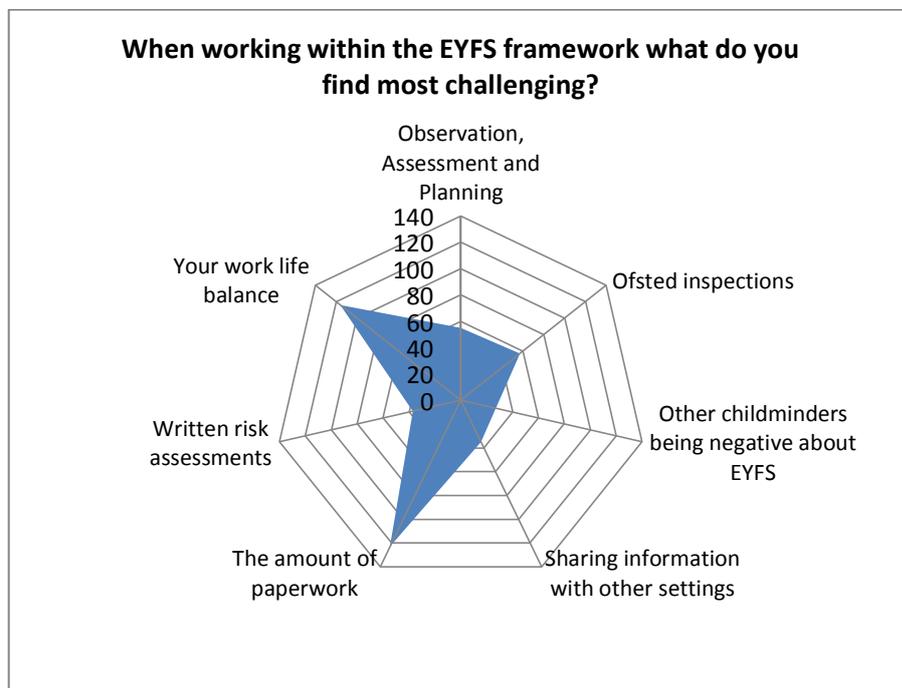


Figure 3 - Challenges of working within EYFS

### Impact of Paperwork

Brooker et al (2010), Tickell and Edgington (2011) have included too much paperwork as a challenge and concern for childminders when working within the EYFS framework. Figure 3 clearly identifies that nearly three quarters of the sample set would strongly agree with this view. The data for this question is at Appendix B.

### Work life balance

The respondents clearly identified their work life balance as a major challenge when working within EYFS. Over two-thirds felt that EYFS impacted negatively upon their work-life balance.

### EYFS Tickell Review

With data showing two thirds are aware of the Tickell Review (2011) it would be interesting to see if the issues of the burden of paperwork remain after the EYFS framework is revised. At the time of writing, the recommendations by Tickell Review (2011), to reduce the early learning goals from 69 to 17 and not to have to carry out written risk assessments when taking the children out, will in some way address this; further follow-up research would be required.

### Support by the Local Authority and Network Coordinators

The responses to the questionnaire questions regarding funding bursaries and support by the local authority or network coordinators identify an error in understanding. Funding bursaries for training have been received by 44% of the childminders since the implementation of EYFS. However, 74% believed the Local Authority did not support them with regards to the EYFS. This is clearly erroneous as the Local Authority provides part funding for training. Similarly, Network co-ordinators (who are also part locally funded) are clearly offering their childminders a lot of support with EYFS 60% of replies demonstrate this. A criticism of the researcher is whether further explanation of these facts should have been given on the questionnaire.

## Analysis of Childminders who have started minding since the introduction of EYFS

### Started Childminding since EYFS

Since the introduction of EYFS almost one-quarter of childminders responding have started their practice, this refutes the view of Leach (2011) who discussed that childminders are “intimidated” by the EYFS. This sub-set of data represents 40 replies, of these nearly three quarters viewed their job as part of their long term career as seen in Figure 1.

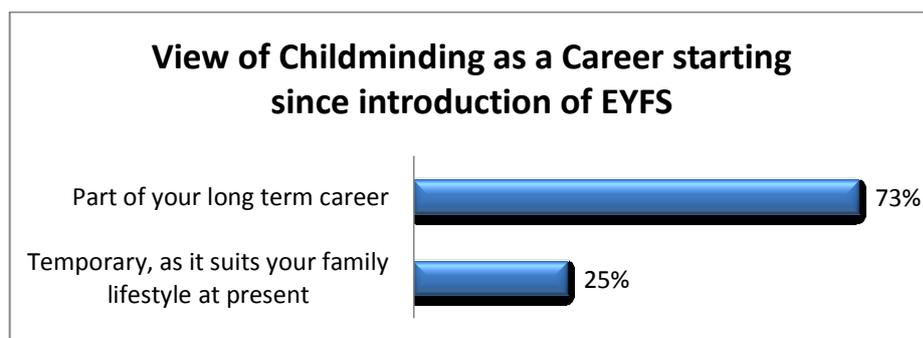


Figure 4 - Childminders starting since EYFS - View of Career

### Completed Training since introduction of EYFS

Of the childminders starting since the introduction of EYFS, over three-quarters have completed one or more days of EYFS related training in the last year.

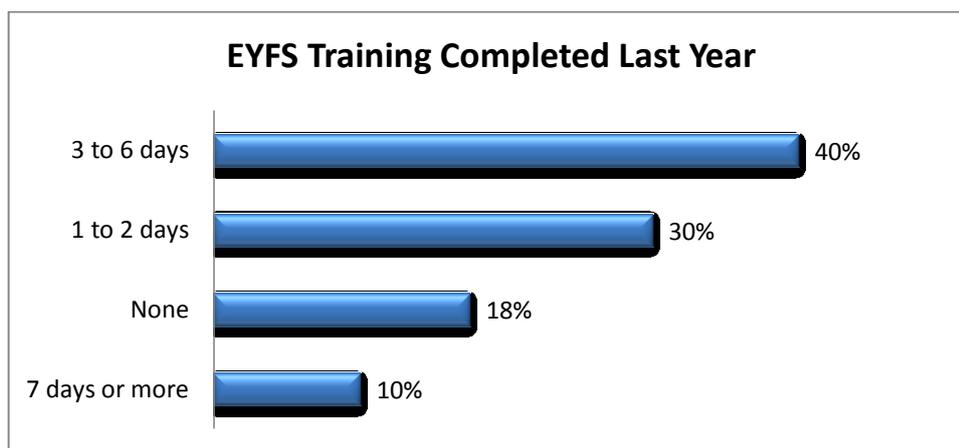


Figure 2 - Childminders registered since the EYFS - how much training completed last year

The data at Figure 2 clearly establishes the childminder’s professional development commitment to training.

### View of EYFS from Childminders starting since introduction of EYFS

Having commenced their practice since the introduction of EYFS, this sub-set of responses indicates a unique view of the framework as they have always been under its requirements. The data at Figure 3 reveals the overall impact of positive impressions of childminders for EYFS. Whilst a ‘common framework’ is clearly identified as important, surprisingly only 40% recognise the central ethos of ‘Play’ as being at the heart of EYFS.

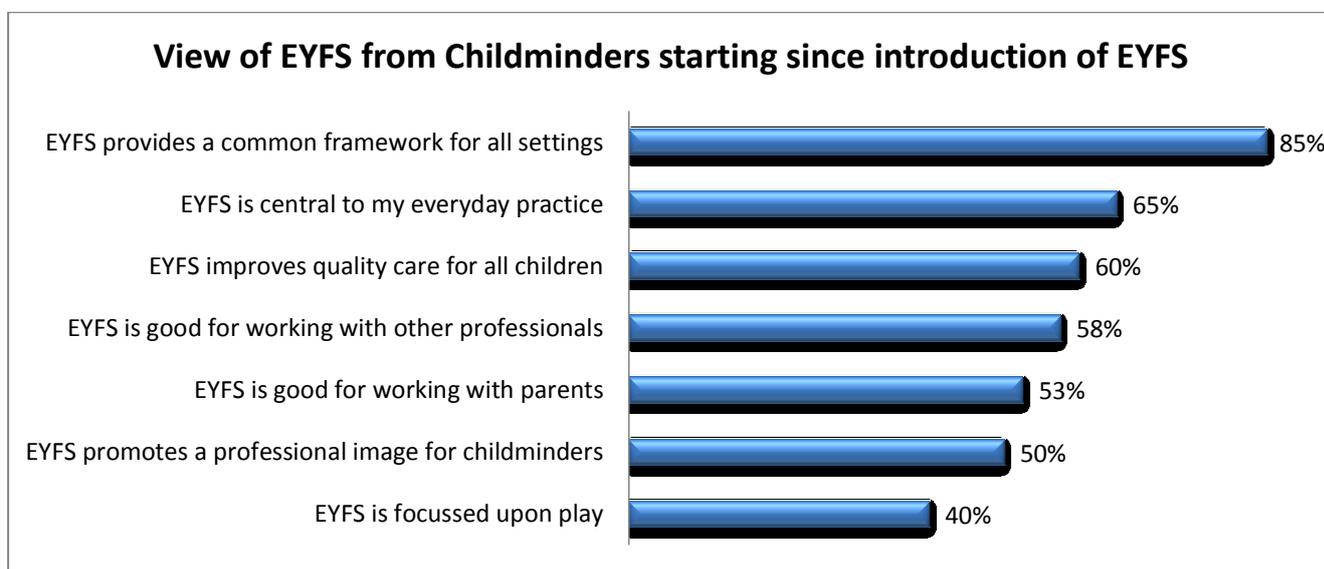


Figure - 3 – Childminders registered since the EYFS views of the framework

## Childminders with Outstanding or Good Ofsted Inspection Grade

### Level of Support Received

Of the overall data received, 93.5% of the childminders have achieved an Ofsted Inspection grading of Outstanding or Good. This group’s view of the level of support they have received is at Figure 5.

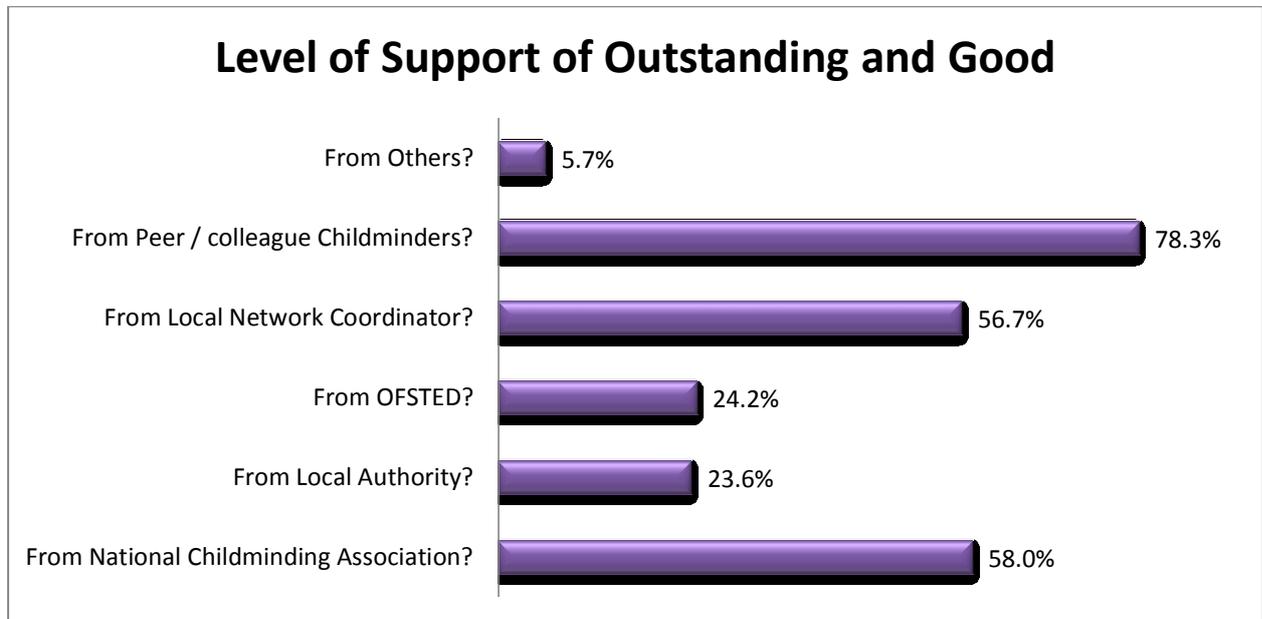


Figure 5 - Level of Support Received by Outstanding and Good Childminders

The data clearly agrees with the Tickell (2011) view that Childminders graded Outstanding or Good were support by a “strong local infrastructure” like a network or peer to peer support.

## Network Childminders v Non-Network Childminders Views

### Qualifications

What qualifications do current childminders have? Adams has very negative views of the EYFS and although she welcomes the Tickell Review (2011) believes all childminders requiring aspiring to level three has not given any recognition to years of experience. Ticknell Review discusses childminders would need to complete some training on the EYFS framework before becoming registered.

EPPE (1997-2004) “Well-qualified staff better outcomes for children”

Brind et all (2011) 54% have a level 3 and 3% at level 6

## **Reduction in numbers of childminders**

Fauth et al 2010 cited retirement then the EYFS as reasons to withdraw from working however, this study refutes

Is paperwork still a concern? IS this the same for network/non network

Leach (2011) discussed that childminders are “intimidated” by the EYFS and “not keen to join the network” 34% of the respondents who are members of the network strongly challenge that statement.

Ofsted (2011) 10 out of the 12 outstanding childminder’s were member of local childminding networks.

depending on their Ofsted grading did they feel supported in achieving this?

2010 68% Ofsted Good or outstanding Outstanding childminders demonstrated having qualification above the minimum requirement

daytrust aspire to 40% Level 3

Nicholson et al (2007) 7 in 10 childminders had undertaken some training in the last 12 months

Owen child care option of generally lower quality than group care

Ofsted EYFS has been in place for three years and childminders should be more accustomed with the requirements of the framework