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**CHILDREN'S DAY CARE FACILITIES AT 31 MARCH 2001:
ENGLAND (PROVISIONAL ESTIMATES)****INTRODUCTION**

This Statistical First Release contains provisional estimates of the numbers of day care providers and places for children aged under 8 in England at 31 March 2001. It contains separate estimates for day nurseries, playgroups, childminders, out of school clubs and holiday schemes. It has been compiled from information about day care facilities submitted by local authorities to the DfES.

KEY POINTS

Between March 2000 and March 2001:

- There were increases of 300 (3%) in the number of day nurseries and 20,900 (8%) in the number of places in day nurseries.
- There were decreases of 300 (2%) in the number of playgroups and 22,900 (6%) in the number of places in playgroups.
- There were decreases of 3,300 (4%) in the number of childminders and 15,800 (5%) in the number of places with childminders.
- There were increases of 500 (11%) in the number of out of school clubs and 11,700 (8%) in the number of places in out of school clubs.
- There were increases of 1,200 (10%) in the number of holiday schemes and 104,100 (21%) in the number of places in holiday schemes.

Between March 1997 and March 2001:

- The numbers of day nurseries, out of school clubs and holiday schemes have risen by 1,700, 2,300 and 7,600 respectively and the numbers of playgroups and childminders have fallen by 1,800 and 26,200 respectively.
- The numbers of places in day nurseries, out of school clubs and holiday schemes have risen by 91,300, 74,100 and 385,500 respectively and the numbers of places in playgroups and with childminders have fallen by 53,500 and 60,600 respectively.

TABLES

Table 1 Number of providers of children's day care in England at 31 March 1997 to 2001 (provisional estimates)

Table 2 Number of places in children's day care provision in England at 31 March 1997 to 2001 (provisional estimates)

NOTES

1. Provision may be made by the Local Authority and private, voluntary and independent organisations registered under Part X of the Children Act 1989 or exempt from registration. Classification of providers may vary between Local Authorities and may not match exactly the categories: day nurseries, childminders, playgroups, out of school clubs and holiday schemes used on the data collection form.

2. Each holiday scheme is counted once for each holiday period in which it is in operation.

RELATED STATISTICS

3. A more detailed picture of day care provision will be published in October 2001 in the Statistical Bulletin 'Children's Day Care Facilities at 31 March 2001, England'.

4. Information relating to early years provision in the private, voluntary, independent and maintained sectors was published in SFR 22/2001 "Provision for Children Under Five Years of Age in England: January 2001 (Provisional Estimates)" on 16 May 2001.

Table 1: Number of providers of children's day care (1)(2)**England****1997 - 2001 (provisional estimates)****Position at 31 March each year**

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 (3)
Provision for children aged under 8					
Day Nurseries	6,100	6,700	7,000	7,500	7,800
Playgroups	15,800	15,700	15,000	14,300	14,000
Childminders	98,500	94,700	82,200	75,600	72,300
Provision for children aged 5 - 7					
Out of School Clubs	2,600	3,100	3,800	4,400	4,900
Holiday Schemes (4)(5)	5,300	6,200	10,200	11,700	12,900

1. Rounded to the nearest 100.

2. Where complete information was not available some estimates have been made.

3. Figures for March 2001 are provisional estimates.

4. Holiday schemes have been counted once for each holiday period in which they operate.

5. Some of the difference between 1998 and 1999 may be due to additional guidance given to data providers in 1999.

Table 2: Number of places in children's day care provision (1)(2)**England****1997 - 2001 (provisional estimates)****Position in March each year**

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 (3)
Provision for children aged under 8					
Day Nurseries	193,800	223,000	247,700	264,200	285,100
Playgroups	383,700	383,600	347,200	353,100	330,200
Childminders	365,200	370,700	336,600	320,400	304,600
Provision for children aged 5 - 7					
Out of School Clubs	78,700	92,300	113,800	141,100	152,800
Holiday Schemes (4)(5)	209,000	256,500	435,000	490,400	594,500

1. Rounded to the nearest 100.

2. Where complete information was not available some estimates have been made.

3. Figures for March 2001 are provisional estimates.

4. Holiday schemes have been counted once for each holiday period in which they operate.

5. Some of the difference between 1998 and 1999 may be due to additional guidance given to data providers in 1999.