

SURVEY UPDATE

● According to *Evaluation of the first year of the national rollout of 30 hours free childcare: research report* (Gillian Paull & Ivana La Valle DfE, Sept 2018), based on 12 LA areas, 76% of participating providers offered extended hours; 39% said the extended hours had reduced their profit; some were waiting to see if it was financially viable; 91% of parents had accessed an extended hours place, while those parents who did not said they needed better information about it, including how to access it; 51% of parents said they were using more childcare, while 42% of mothers and 26% of fathers felt it enabled them to work or work longer hours. Some LA childcare teams were concerned that they might not have the resources to offer 30 hours in the future, particularly in the case of children with SEND.

- According to *Study of Early Education and Development (SEED): Impact Study on Early Education Use and Child Outcomes up to age four years* (Edward Melhuish & Julian Gardiner, DfE, Sept 2018), there are extra gains in non-verbal development at age four among children spending time in group settings, better behavioural self-regulation and fewer peer problems. But there are more conduct problems with children spending 35hrs+ in settings. Improved verbal development is not associated with hours spent in settings, so the authors recommend research in this area.
- The 30 hours funded childcare offer has led to increased fees for nearly half of parents, according to an online *survey by the Alliance and Mumsnet*, which generated 1,662 responses. 32% said they were planning to do so and almost a fifth said they were planning to introduce additional charges. The survey also revealed that four in 10 providers fear that they may have to close within the next year as a result of the scheme.
- To access these surveys, go to the Links page on nmt-magazine.co.uk



Fundraising fun

It may seem that sunny days are gone for good, but for Kiddi Caru, the sun came back in their lives when they found that their locally organised summer fun days had raised £6,000 for Home-Start UK, bringing the total raised by the group so far to £25,500.

Caron Moseley, marketing manager at Kiddi Caru, said: "We are absolutely delighted with the success of this year's summer fun days – not only did the nurseries beat last year's total raised by nearly £2,000, they also went above and beyond to ensure visiting families had as much fun as possible. Their commitment to supporting Home-Start UK really shone through." ■

LEFT: Raising money while having fun at Kiddi Caru in Bedford



Working together for the environment

Tops' eco award

Tops Day Nurseries' setting in Havant, Hampshire, has become the first nursery to achieve Plastic Free Schools accreditation from the marine conservation charity, Surfers against Sewage. This meant meeting five testing objectives, including banning

the use of single-use plastics and asking for support from Government and their local MPs. Well done!

Chief executive, Cheryl Hadland, will be writing a regular update on environment issues from January 2019.