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Conference or Workshop Item

Title: Life, the Universe and 15 hours of free education and care for two-year-olds: what do parents think?

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Version: Presented version

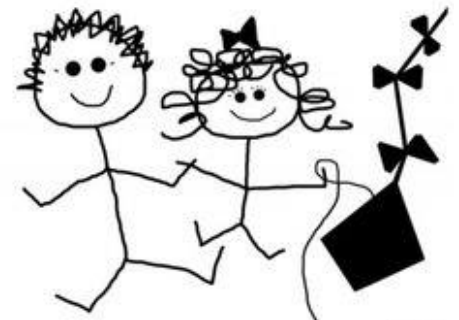
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Life, the Universe and 15 hours of Free Education and Care for Two-Year-Olds: What do parents think?

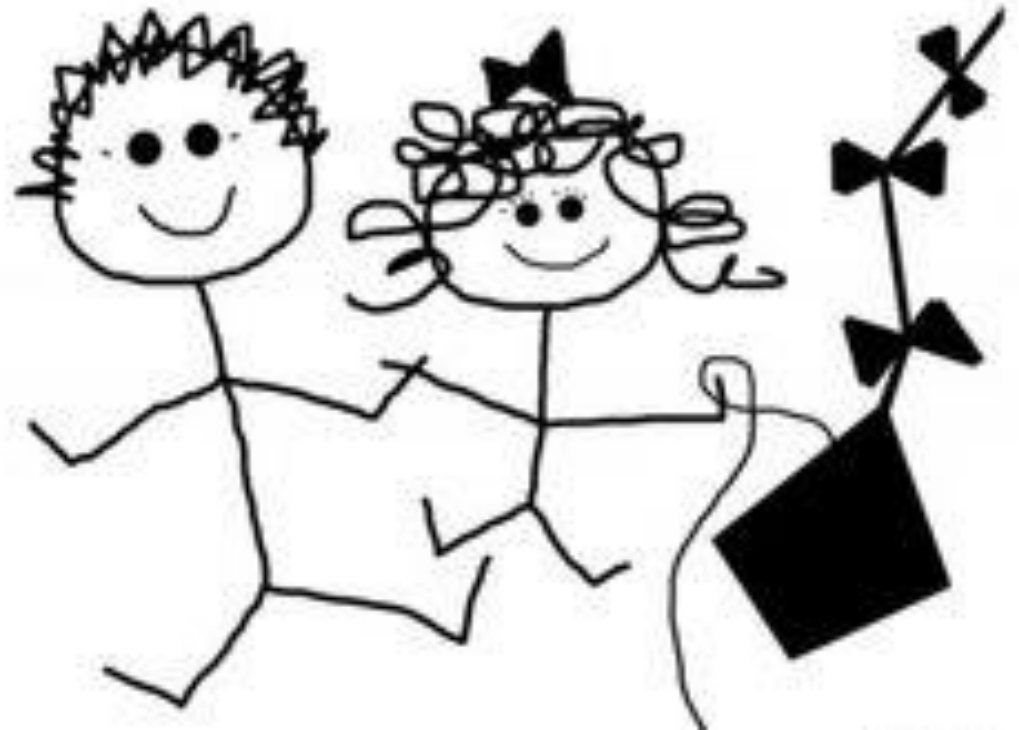
Dr Jane Murray
Jemima Murray



Life, the Universe and 15 hours of Free Education and Care for Two-Year-Olds: What do parents think?

3 Sections:

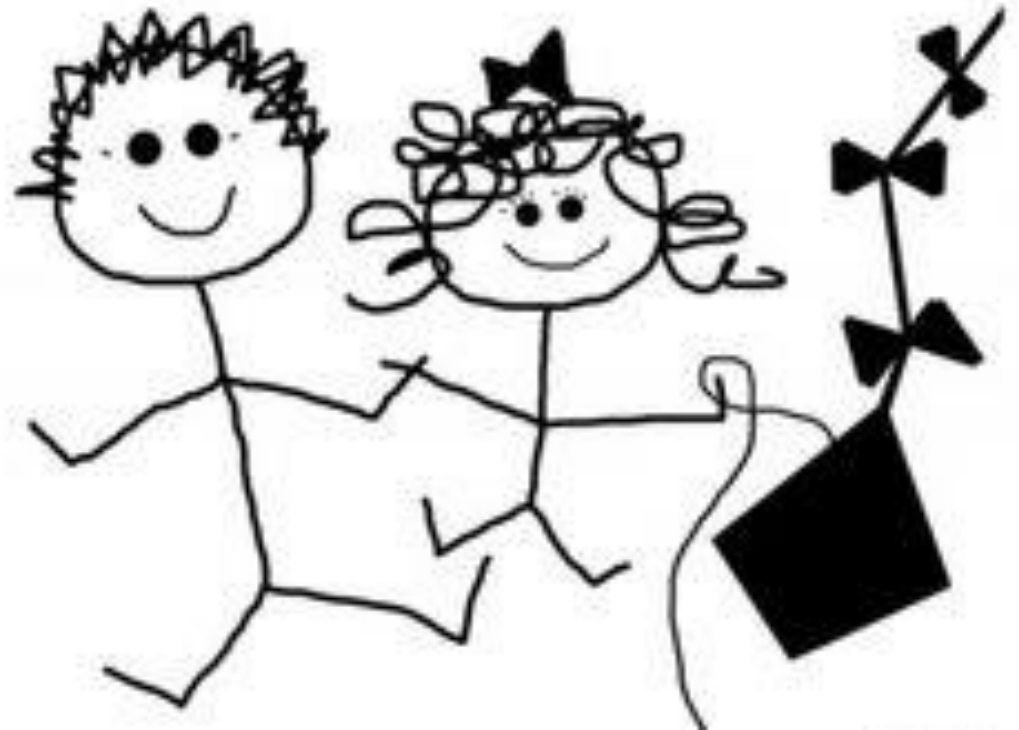
1. Study Context
2. Study Design
3. Study Findings



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World

Goal 4, Target 4.2:

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education



Europe

European policy: affordable and accessible childcare (EGGE, 2009)



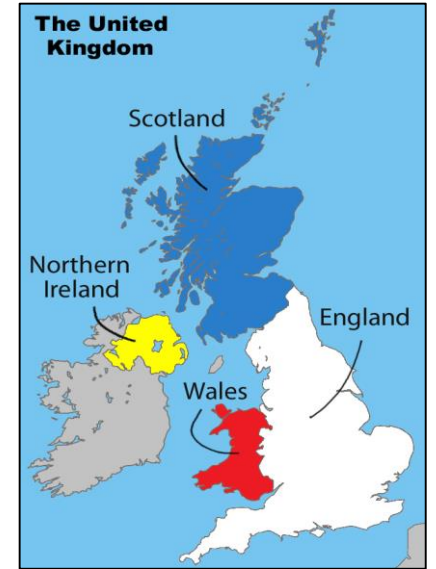
England

570 hours (15 hours per week) free early childhood education and care

Entitlement:

- All 3-4 Year Olds
- 40% of the 'most disadvantaged' 2-year-olds

What is 'most disadvantaged'?

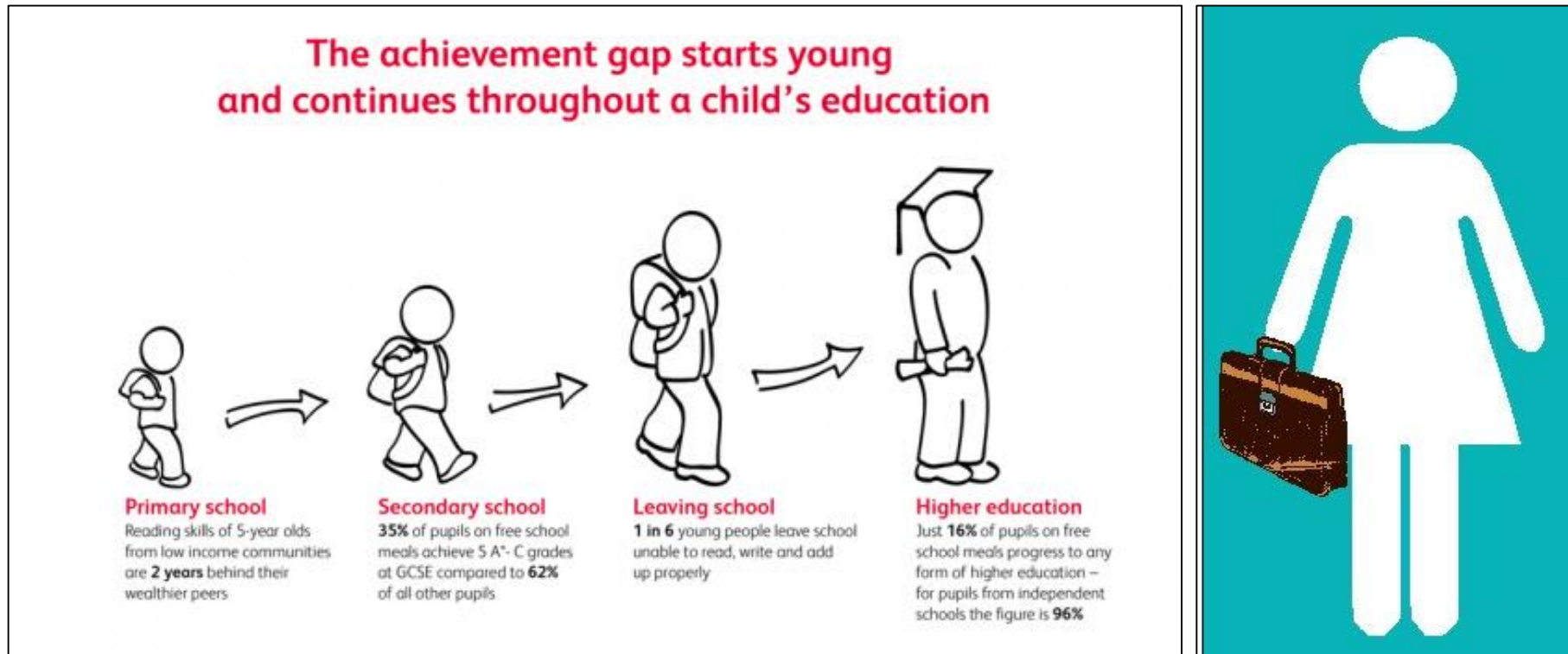


(Gov.UK, 2015)
(Waldegrave, 2013)



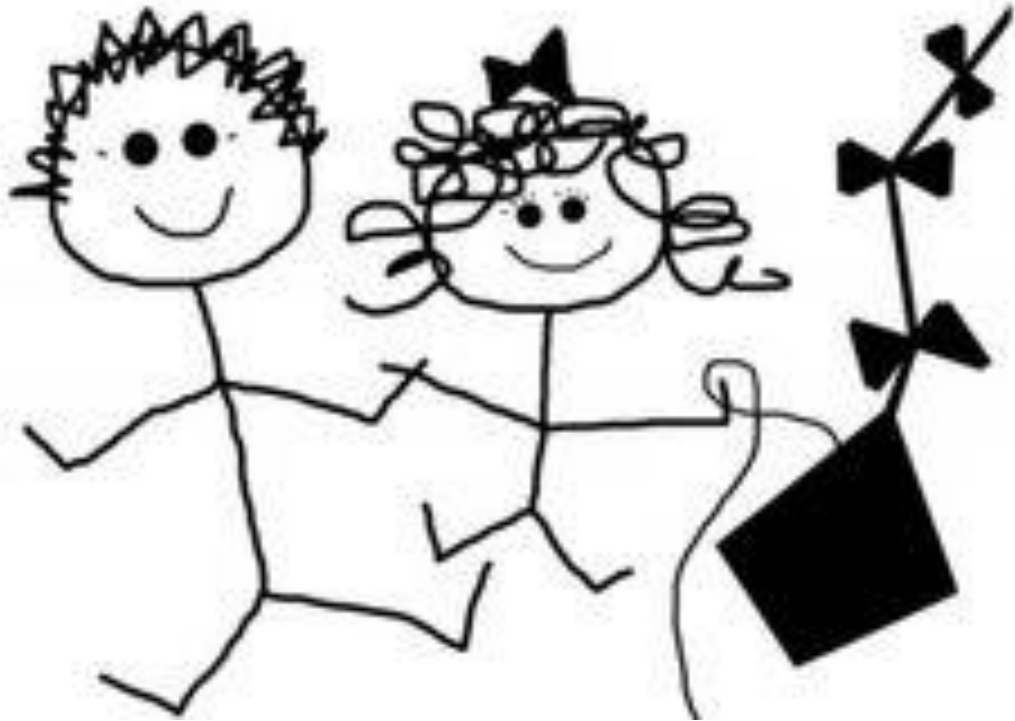
Rationale for 2YO Policy

- (i) Close the educational attainment gap between disadvantaged and other children
- (ii) Enable parents (especially women) to return to work

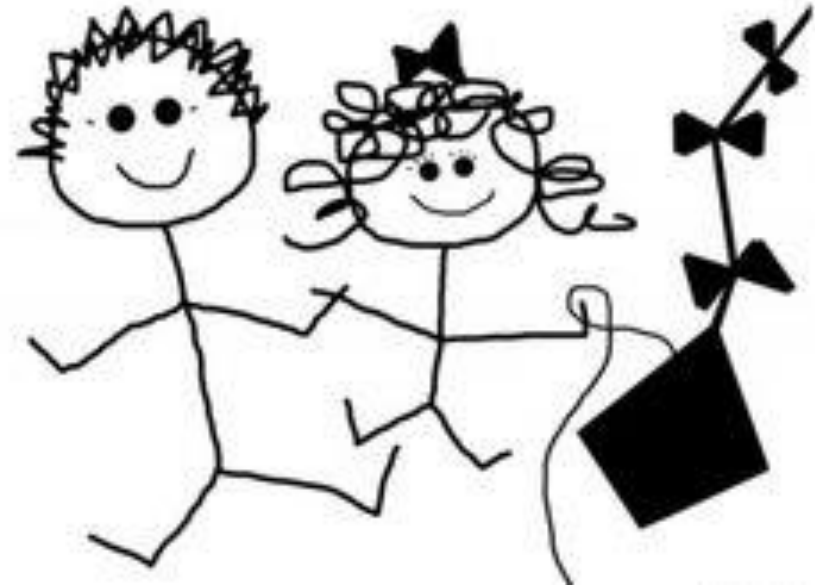


(Fair Education Alliance, 2016)
(Waldegrave, 2013)

Take up



3 and 4 YOs
97% / 100%



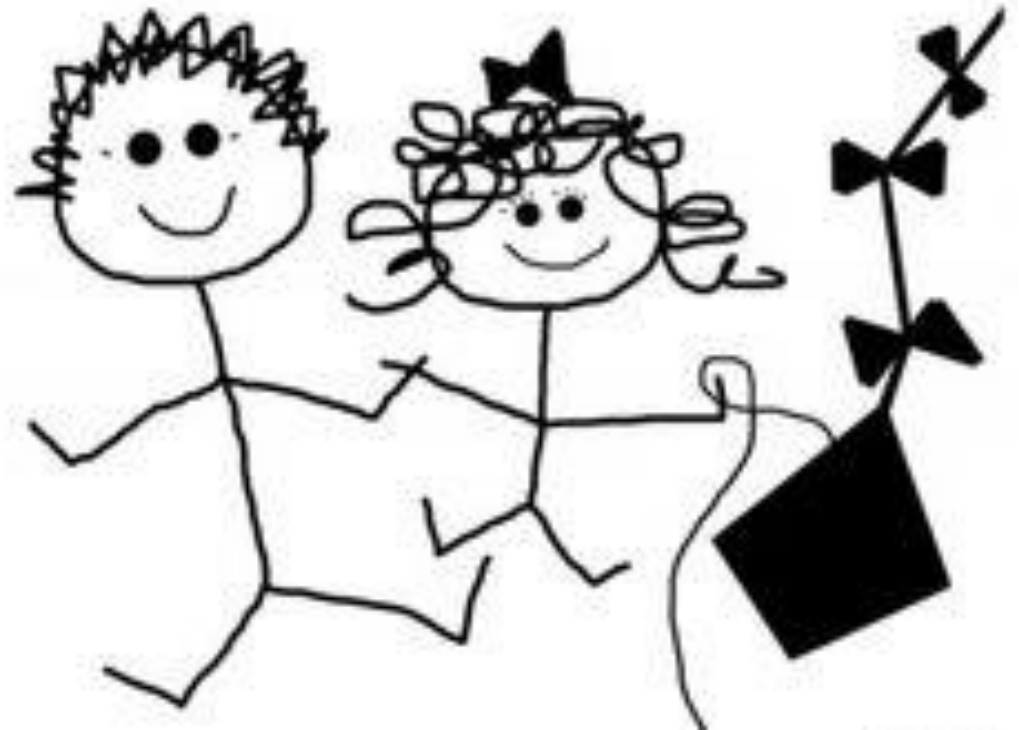
2 YOs
58% / 40%

(Whitaker, 2015)

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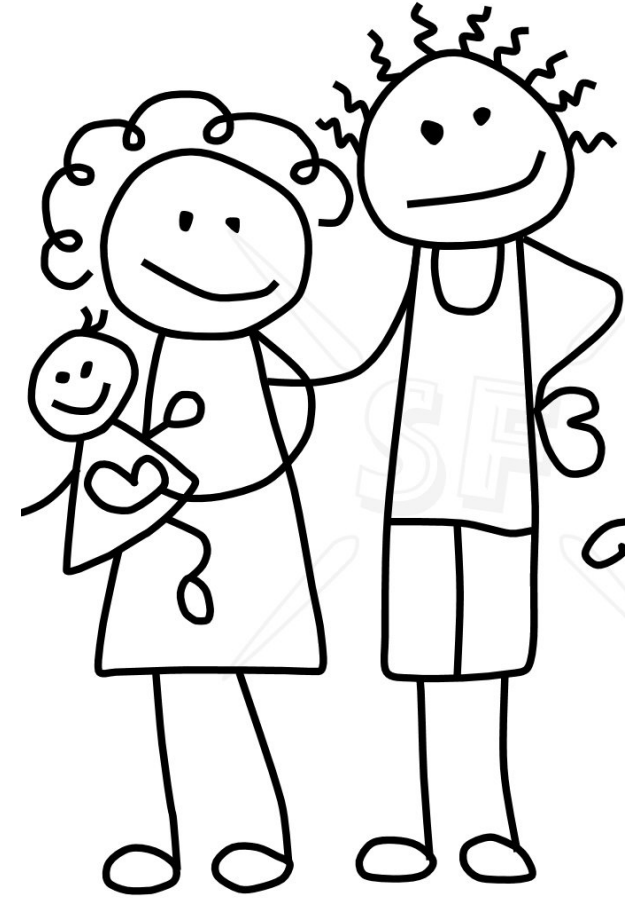
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Research Question

What are parents' perspectives regarding how 15 hours of free education and care for two-year-olds affect their family lives?

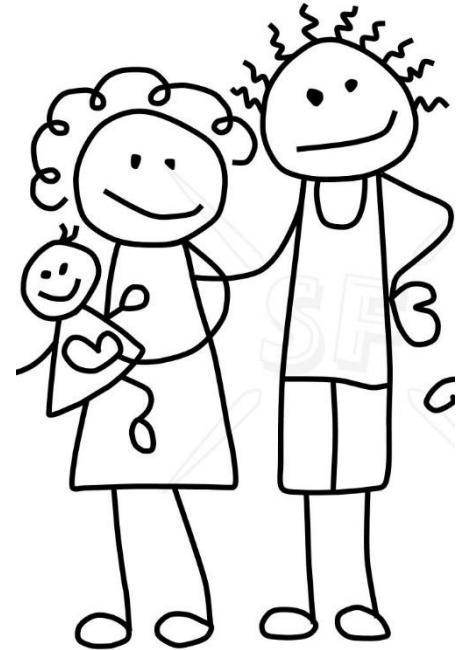


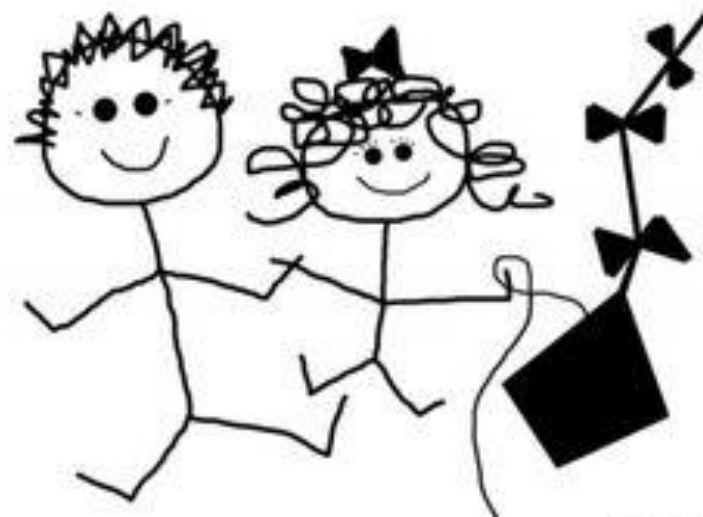
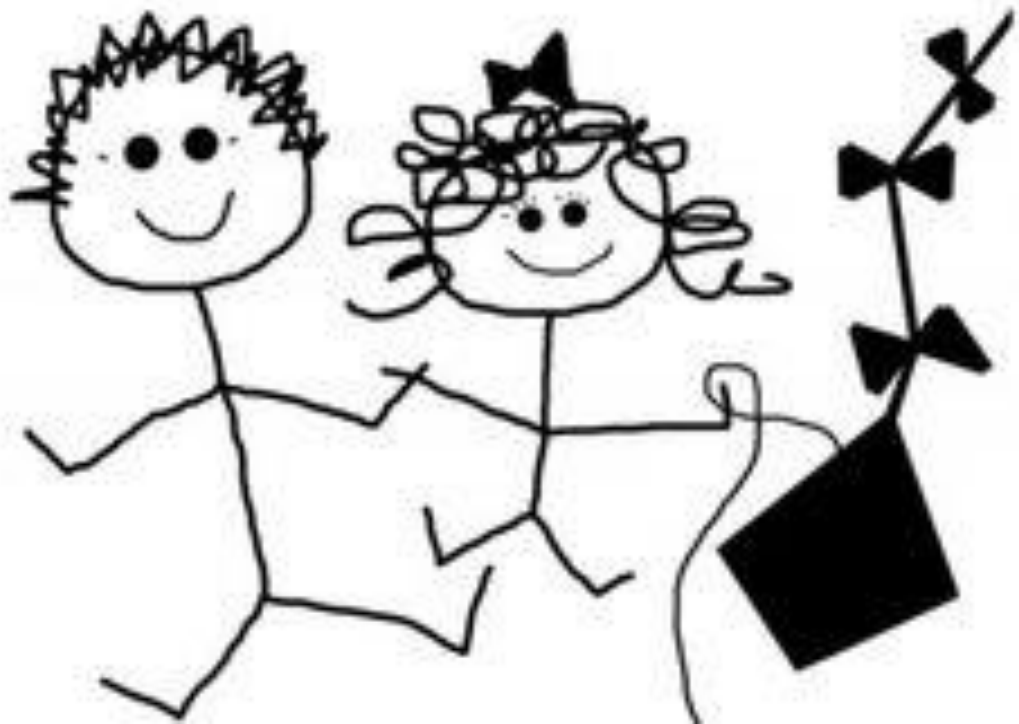
Objectives

To capture parents' views about any effects of 15 hours of free education and care on

- their 2YO's behaviour
- their own behaviour
- any links between their own employment or study and their 2YO's 15 free hours of education and care

To identify barriers and opportunities that parents say they experience in regard to accessing local services while their 2YO children are in 15 hours of free education and care





Methodology

Subtle realism to question the rationale for England's 2YO ECEC policy

(Cohen and Crabtree, 2006)

Instrumental case study to understand, explore and exemplify the issue

(Creswell, 2013)

The study ethics were guided by BERA (2011)

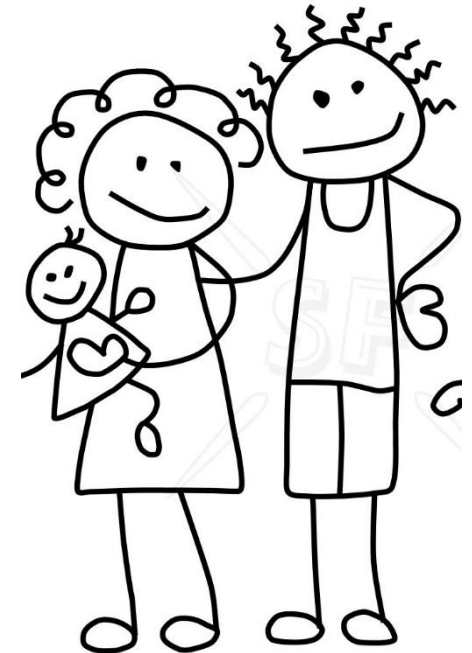
Research Instrument/s

Phase 1 completed:

- Structured questionnaire
- 12 parents (40%) responded

Phase 2 planned:

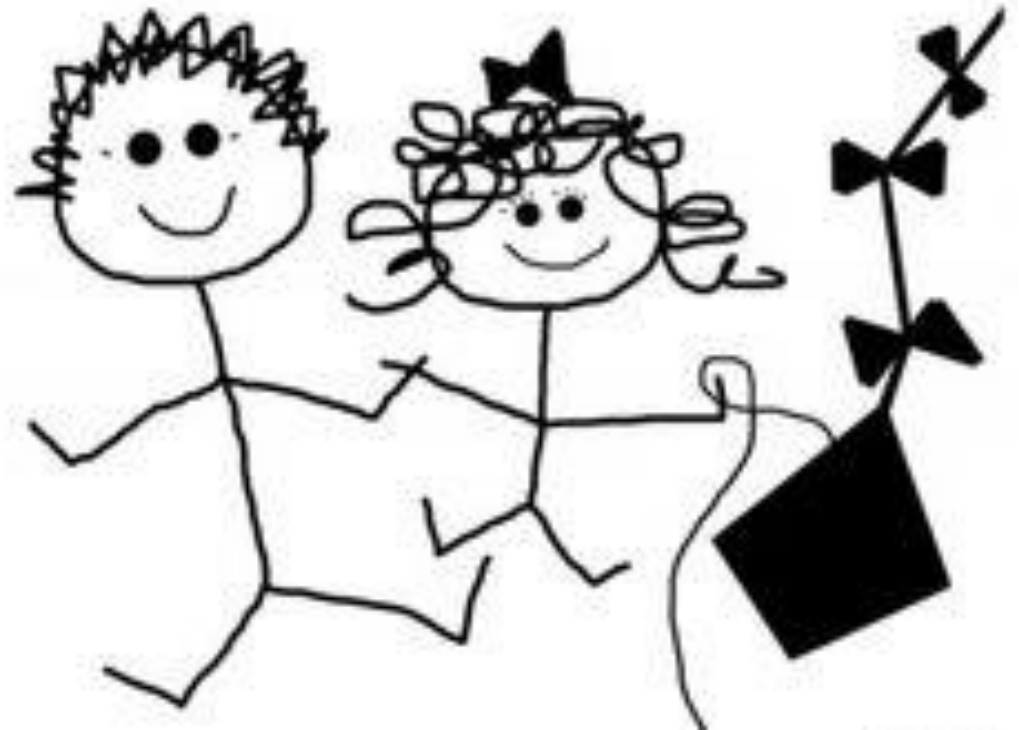
- Semi-structured interviews
- Parents (n=6)



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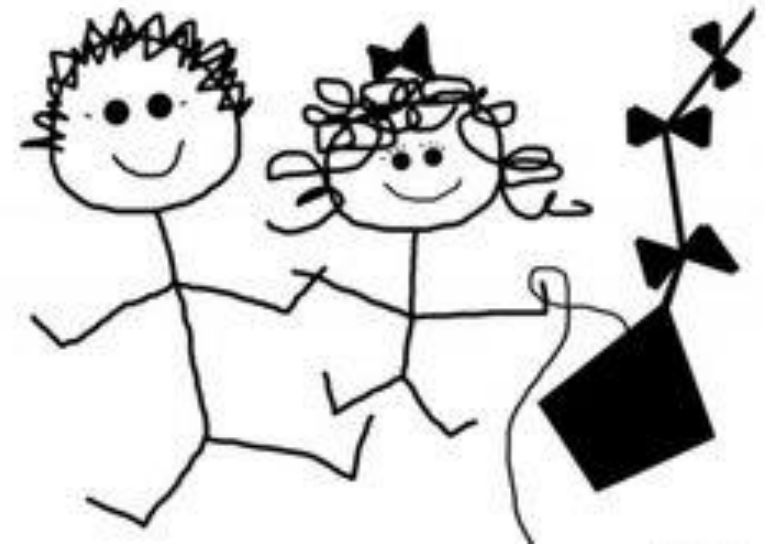
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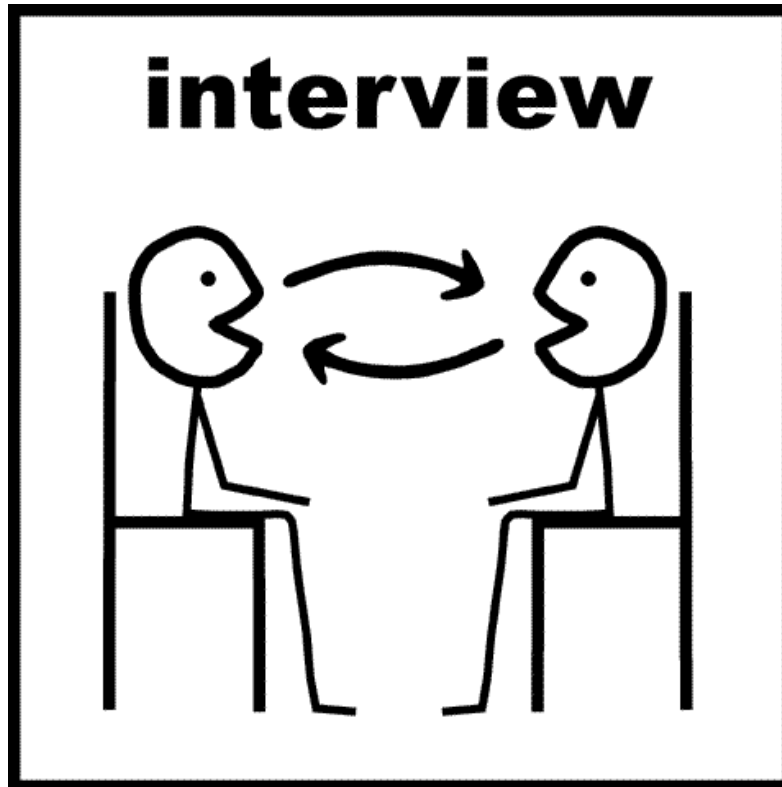
4 Sections

- **Section 1: About Family, Home and Setting**
- **Section 2: About Your 2YO Child at Provision**
- **Section 3: About You**
- **Section 4: About Helping Parents**



Next steps

- Semi-structured interviews with parents (n=6)
- Seeking funding for a larger study



References

BERA (2011) *Revised Guidelines for Educational Research*. Nottingham: BERA

Cohen D. and Crabtree B. (2006) *Qualitative Research Guidelines Project*. [Online] Available at: <http://www.qualres.org/HomeCrit-3517.html> Accessed: 24.1.16

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