

# Delivering the Mayor's Childcare Strategy for London

Working towards affordable, good quality childcare for all

## The Childcare Affordability Programme

### Introduction

Childcare can be 25% more expensive in London than elsewhere in the country (Daycare Trust Childcare Cost Survey 2005). As a result childcare is inaccessible to many families in London.

As the lead Regional Development Agency in England for childcare, the London Development Agency (LDA) is responsible for delivering the **Mayor's London Childcare Strategy**. We work with the childcare sector to support business and employment opportunities, and improve access to high quality childcare that is both accessible and affordable.

**The Childcare Affordability Programme (CAP)**, funded jointly with SureStart, is our largest childcare investment programme designed to specifically address the childcare affordability issue.

### The key objectives of CAP are to:

- make childcare in London more affordable for lower income families
- enable parents on lower incomes to remain in, or return to, full or part-time work and flexible work, and
- provide parents with greater access, choice, flexibility and quality childcare provision.



## 10,000 affordable childcare places

CAP will be delivered from 2005–2008. It will subsidise a range of childcare places through LDA and SureStart funding to meet the needs of lower income families in London. In total up to 10,000 affordable and flexible childcare places are expected to be created through directly subsidising Ofsted registered and approved childcare providers.

### How this will work

The first round of CAP calling for offers of flexible and affordable childcare places will commence in September 2005.

From 2005 one element of the programme will subsidise full daycare places (that is a minimum of six hours a day, five days a week, 48 weeks of the year) in nurseries and NCMA accredited childminding networks attached to nurseries. The second element will incentivise those same childcare providers to offer more flexible hours of care that can provide parents support beyond full day provision.

In addition, from 2006 the programme will seek to tackle a wider range of problems associated with childcare affordability and parent's access to employment and training. We will encourage innovative solutions and ideas from providers and London boroughs to address these problems. Example areas that we may consider are:

- supporting parents of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and disabilities to access affordable childcare either in group provision, with a registered childminder, or in their own home (registered home carer)
- supporting parents who are not currently working but who are seeking work or entering training.



## Full daycare places

Ofsted registered group childcare providers (nurseries) and NCMA accredited childminder networks attached to nurseries that are currently charging more than £175 a week for a full day childcare place, will be invited to offer up to 50% of their childcare places for CAP subsidies. The CAP programme will provide a subsidy of up to £30 a week to bring the cost of the place down to £175 a week. CAP places will only be open to lower income families in receipt of the Child Tax Credit at a higher rate than the family element (for 2005/2006 this means more than £547.50 per year).

## Flexible hours

Again, Ofsted registered group childcare and NCMA accredited childminding networks attached to nurseries will be invited to provide improved affordable flexible childcare places that offer additional childcare support beyond full day provision. A subsidy of up to £68 a week will be available depending on the additional hours offered on top of the six hours and five days a week provision. This recognises the childcare needs of parents outside of the traditional full daycare provision e.g. places to meet the needs of part time workers, early mornings, after 18:00 and weekends.

## Flexible choices

Providers can offer up to 50% of their registered childcare places for either affordable full daycare or affordable flexible care, or a combination of both.

The programme will close in November 2008 and a full evaluation report will be produced.

## Contact details

For further information on the work of the LDA on childcare please contact:

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Quoting **Childcare**.

## Further childcare publications

Further childcare publications are available on [www.lda.gov.uk/childcare](http://www.lda.gov.uk/childcare)



## Other languages and formats:

A summarised version of this document is also available in large print, braille, on disk, audio cassette and in the languages listed below.

For a copy, please email, telephone or write to the LDA on the contact details above. For more information visit [www.lda.gov.uk](http://www.lda.gov.uk) or phone 020 7954 4500.

### Gujarati

જો તમને આ દસ્તાવેજની નકલ તમારી ભાષામાં જોઈતી હોય તો, કૃપા કરી આપેલ નંબર '૩' ઠીક કરી અથવા નીચેના સરનામે સંપર્ક સાધો.

### Vietnamese

Nếu bạn muốn bản sao của tài liệu này bằng ngôn ngữ của bạn, hãy gọi điện theo số hoặc liên lạc với địa chỉ dưới đây.

### Bengali

আপনি যদি আপনার ভাষায় এই দলিলের প্রতিলিপি (কপি) চান, তা হলে নীচের ফোন নম্বরে বা ঠিকানায় অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ করুন।

### Greek

Αν θα θέλατε ένα αντίγραφο του παρόντος εγγράφου στη γλώσσας, παρακαλώ να τηλεφωνήστε στον αριθμό ή να επικοινωνήσετε στην παρακάτω διεύθυνση.

### Turkish

Bu broşürü Türkçe olarak edinmek için lütfen aşağıdaki numaraya telefon edin ya da adrese başvurun.

### Chinese

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### Hindi

यदि आप इस दस्तावेज़ की प्रति अपनी भाषा में चाहते हैं, तो कृपया निम्नलिखित नम्बर पर फोन करें अथवा दिये गये पता पर सम्पर्क करें।

### Arabic

إذا أردت نسخة من هذه الوثيقة بلغتك، الرجاء الاتصال برقم الهاتف أو الكتابة إلى العنوان أدناه:

### Urdu

اگر آپ اس دستاویز کی نقل اپنی زبان میں چاہتے ہیں، تو براہ کرم نیچے دیئے گئے نمبر پر فون کریں یا دیئے گئے پتہ پر رابطہ قائم کریں۔

### Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਲਿਖੇ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਚਾਬਤਾ ਕਰੋ.