



**Scottish Government
Funded early learning and childcare
Online questionnaire
Final**

INTRODUCTION

Hello, welcome to this online survey about early learning and childcare. It will take no more than around 15 minutes to complete. Thank you in advance for taking part in this survey.

We are interested in getting views from parents and carers of children aged under 6 who have not yet started school. In Scotland, children aged three and four, and some eligible two and five year olds, are now entitled to 1140 hours of early learning and childcare every year that is free to parents and funded by the Scottish Government or the Local Council. Funded places are provided by a range of settings, including school nurseries, playgroups, private nurseries, family centres and childminders.

The 1140 hours is a relatively new offer in Scotland and we want to find out from parents and carers how well it works and what, if any, improvements could be made. We would also like to get views from people who don't currently use funded early learning and childcare.

The survey is being done by Progressive Partnership, an independent research company on behalf of the Scottish Government. **The survey is completely confidential**, and we work in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Market Research Society Code of Conduct.

This survey includes collecting some personal information from you such as your age or gender, but you do not have to answer these questions if you do not want to. No personal data will be provided to the Scottish Government unless you agree to this, and your personal details will never be passed to any other third parties. Click [here](#) for Progressive's privacy policy.

Please be assured that your confidentiality and anonymity is respected at all times. The answers you give in the survey will be combined with answers from other people who have taken part to give overall survey findings. No one will be able to identify you individually from the data. Progressive guarantees that all your answers will remain strictly anonymous.

Click [here](#) to find out how to contact Progressive and [here](#) to find out how to contact the Scottish Government.

Everyone taking part has the chance to enter a **prize draw to win one of 10 x £100 cash prizes**. Click here for prize draw terms and conditions.

SCREENERS AND INFORMATION

Consent

Are you happy to continue with the survey?

	Code	Route
Yes	1	Continue
No	2	Screen out

ASK ALL

SQ1 - Before we start, do you have any children in your household under 6 years old who have not yet started school?

Code		
Yes	1	CONTINUE
No	2	CLOSE

All the questions in this survey relate to children who have NOT yet started school.

ASK OF SQ1 CODE 1

SQ2 How many children who have not yet started school do you have?

	Number of children	Code
1		1
2		2
3		3
4		4
5		5
6		6
No children under 6 years old		CLOSE

ASK IF SQ2 CODE = 1~6

SQ2a What ages are each of your preschool children?

Age of children	1	2	3	4	5	6
Child 1	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5
Child 2	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5
Child 3	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5
Child 4	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5
Child 5	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5
Child 6	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5

ASK ALL

SQ3 – Which of the following types of childcare and early learning do you use for each of your children?

Codes	-	1	2	3	4	5
	Age	Funded early learning and childcare	Childcare or early learning that I pay for myself	Informal childcare (e.g. grandparent, other relative, friend) on a <u>regular or frequent</u> basis	Informal childcare (e.g. grandparent, other relative, friend) on an <u>occasional or irregular</u> basis	None of these
Child 1						
Child 2						
Child 3						
Child 4						
Child 5						
Child 6						

ASK IF SQ3=2

SQ4 – You said that you pay for some childcare for one or more of your children yourself. On a typical week, on average how many hours of paid-for childcare do your children receive?

Codes	During term-time	During school holidays
0-1 year olds		
2 year olds		
3-4 year olds		
5 year olds		

ASK IF SQ3=3,4

SQ5 – You said that one or more of your children receive informal childcare on a regular and/or occasional basis. On a typical week, on average how many hours of informal childcare do your children receive?

Codes	During term-time	During school holidays
0-1 year olds		
2 year olds		
3-4 year olds		
5 year olds		

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Questions for parents with a 3-5 year old child

Your use of funded early learning and childcare

Throughout this questionnaire we are interested in getting opinions of free early learning and childcare which is funded by the Scottish Government or Council. For short we will refer to this as funded early learning and childcare or funded ELC.

These questions relate to your pre-school children aged 3 to 5 years.

ASK IF SQ2a CODES 4 OR 5 OR 6

All with a child aged 3-5 years

The following questions relate to childcare for children aged 3 to 5 years. If you have more than one child in this age-group please choose one child to think about when answering the questions:

- If one of your children aged 3-5 is currently attending funded early learning and childcare, or has attended since August 2021, please answer for one of these children.
- If none of your children aged 3-5 has experience of funded early learning and childcare, please choose one child aged 3-5 to answer the following questions about.

ASK IF SQ2a CODES 4 OR 5 OR 6

All with a child aged 3-5 years

1. How old is the child you are answering these questions about? Please write a number in the box below:

Years _____ Months _____

ASK IF SQ2a CODES 4 OR 5 OR 6

All with a child aged 3-5 years

2. Which of these statements apply to the child you are answering these questions about?

Select one answer only

	Code	Route
My child is currently attending funded early learning and childcare (or starts in the next few weeks)	1	Q3
My child is not currently attending funded early learning and childcare, but has done so since August 2021	2	Q3
My child does not currently attend funded early learning and childcare, and has not done so since August 2021	3	Q11

ASK IF SQ2a = CODES 4 OR 5 OR 6 AND Q2 CODES 1 OR 2

All with a child aged 3-5 years, currently using funded ELC or having used since August 2021

3. What types of funded early learning and childcare has your child attended since August 2021?

Select all that apply

	Code
Local authority nursery class	1
Private nursery	2
Community/voluntary nursery	3
Playgroup (where child attends without parent/carer)	4
Family centre (where child attends without parent/carer)	5
Childminder	6
Other - specify	7
I don't know	8

ASK IF SQ2a = CODES 4 OR 5 OR 6 AND Q2 CODES 1 OR 2

All with a child aged 3-5 years, currently using funded ELC or having used since August 2021

4. Do/did you use the full 1140 hours of funded childcare for your child?

	Code
Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	3

ASK IF SQ2a = CODES 4 OR 5 OR 6 AND Q2 CODES 1 OR 2

All who use funded childcare for pre-school children aged 3, 4, OR 5

5. Which of the following best describes how the funded early learning and childcare hours you use are spread over the year? *Select one answer only*

	Code
Year-round, including school holidays	1
School term time only	2
Other (Please write in below):	3
I don't know	4

ASK IF SQ2a CODES 4 OR 5 OR 6 AND Q2 CODES 1 OR 2

IF Q5 = 2 only about term time hours (6a/6c)

All with a child aged 3-5 years, currently using funded ELC or having used since August 2021

6. Still thinking about the 3-5 year old child you are answering these questions about

6a/c. In a typical week, roughly how many hours during term-time [(Q2=1) does your child currently spend/(Q2=2) did your child spend] at funded early learning and childcare?

6b/d. In a typical week, how many hours during school holidays [(Q2=1) does your child currently spend/(Q2=2) did your child spend] at funded early learning and childcare?

Free ELC	Term-time Hours	Term-time DK	Holidays Hours	Holidays DK
6a /6b Currently spend				
6c/ 6d Previously spend				

ASK IF SQ2a = CODES 4 OR 5 OR 6 AND Q2 = CODES 1 OR 2

All with a child aged 3-5 years, currently using funded ELC or having used since August 2021

7. How satisfied or dissatisfied are/were you that you have been offered the flexibility to use your funded hours in a way that meets your family’s needs

	Code
Very satisfied	1
Fairly satisfied	2
Fairly dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4
Don’t know	5

ASK IF Q7 CODES = 3,4

All who are dissatisfied with the way they can use their funded hours for children aged 3 or 4 or 5

- 7a How would you prefer to use your funded hours? *Select all that apply*

MULTICODE/RANDOMISE

	Code
Throughout school holidays	1
As a blended arrangement with a nursery and childminder	2
With a childminder only	3
Longer sessions on fewer days per week (e.g. 3 days from 8am to 4pm – please use the box below to provide more detail) _____	4
Shorter sessions on more days per week (e.g. 5 days for part of the day – please use the box below to provide more detail) _____	5
Provision outside of normal working hours (e.g. before 8am and after 6pm)	6
Other (Please write in below): <i>*Fixed</i>	7
Don’t know <i>*Fixed *Exclusive</i>	

ASK IF SQ2a CODES 4 OR 5 OR 6 AND Q2 CODES 1 OR 2

All with a child aged 3-5 years, currently using funded ELC or having used since August 2021

8. How easy or difficult is/was it to travel to the main provider that you use for your funded early learning and childcare hours?

	Code
Very easy to get to	1
Fairly easy to get to	2
Fairly difficult to get to	3
Very difficult to get to	4
Someone else takes my child to the provider (e.g. a childminder)	5
I don’t know	6

ASK IF SQ2a CODES 4 OR 5 OR 6 AND Q2 CODES 1 OR 2

All with a child aged 3-5 years, currently using funded ELC or having used since August 2021

9. What are or were your main reasons for using funded early learning and childcare? *Select all that apply*

MULTICODE/ RANDOMISE

	Code
I think it will be good for my child's learning (e.g. speech and language skills, etc)	1
I think it will be good for my child's social, emotional or behavioural development (including mixing with other children)	2
I think it will help build my child's independence/confidence	3
I think it will be good for my ability to help my child's learning and development at home	4
To work or look for work (yourself or your partner)	5
To increase the number of hours that I or my partner work	6
To study or improve work-related skills (yourself or your partner)	7
To have more time for household tasks such as cooking, DIY, cleaning, etc (yourself or your partner)	8
To have more time to look after other children (yourself or your partner)	9
To have more time to look after myself (ourselves): to rest, de-stress, exercise, socialise, etc	10
To reduce the burden on grandparents/ because informal care not available	11
Other reason – specify * Fixed *Open	12

ASK IF Q4 = CODE 2,3

All with a child aged 3-5 years who use some but not all of their funded entitlement

10. Why is that you do not use all the funded hours of early learning and childcare for your 3-5 year old that you are entitled to? *Select all that apply*

RANDOMISE/MULTICODE

	Code
I don't need or want childcare for so many hours	1
I prefer that a grandparent or other close relative looks after my child some of the time	2
My child wouldn't like to be separated from myself or my partner for so many hours	3
I don't think it would be good for my child's wellbeing or development	4
I don't think it would be good for my relationship with my child	5
I feel children should not be in nursery for that long	7
I can't get the days/hours I want at the setting of my choice	8
Other reason (Please write in below): *Fixed *Open	9
Don't know *Fixed	10

ASK IF SQ2a CODES 4 OR 5 OR 6 AND Q2 CODE 3

Do not use government funded ELC – with a child 3-5 years

11. Since August 2021 all pre-school children aged 3 and 4 are eligible for 1140 hours per year of funded early learning and childcare. Are there particular reasons that you are not using funded ELC for your child? *Select all that apply*

RANDOMISE/MULTICODE

	Code
I was not aware of the availability of funded early learning and childcare	1
I don't know how to apply for funded early learning and childcare/I find applying difficult	2
A lack of flexibility or choice in opening hours or sessions available to me	3
A lack of flexibility or choice in available childcare settings and/or types of childcare	4
I have concerns about the associated costs, even if it's funded	5
My travel time is too long, or transport is not available/too expensive to get to a suitable provider	6
I couldn't find any available providers near me	7
I don't need childcare because my working patterns have changed	8
I think my child is too young	9
I want/am able to look after my child myself most of the time	10
I prefer a family member – e.g. a grandparent – to look after my child when I/my partner is not able to	11
I am concerned my child will catch Covid/pass Covid onto other family members	12
I don't think it would benefit my child's wellbeing and/or development	13
I don't think it would benefit my relationship with my child	14
I am not confident that the providers available can meet the additional support needs of my child	15
Other reason – specify * <i>Fixed</i> * <i>Open</i>	16
Don't know * <i>Fixed</i>	17

Questions for parents with a 2-year old child

Your use of free early learning and childcare

Throughout this questionnaire we are interested in getting opinions of free early learning and childcare which is funded by the Scottish Government or Council. For short we will refer to this as funded early learning and childcare or funded ELC.

These questions relate to your child or children aged 2 years old.

ASK IF SQ2a = CODE 3

Ask all those with more than one 2-year old

The following questions relate to childcare for children aged 2 years. If you have more than one child of this age please choose one of your children to think about when answering the questions:

- If you have more than one 2-year old currently attending funded early learning and childcare, or who has attended since August 2021, please answer for one of these children.
- If none of your 2-year old children has experience of free ELC since August 2021, please choose one of your 2-years olds to answer the following questions about.

ASK IF SQ2a = CODE 3

All with a 2-year old

12. Is your 2-year old entitled to the 1140 hours of government funded early learning and childcare? A 2-year old is usually eligible if they are (or have been) looked after by a Local Council, are the subject of a kinship care order or a guardianship order, or if their parent receives certain benefits.

Select one answer only

	Code	Route
Definitely eligible	1	Q15
Heard of funded hours but unsure if eligible	2	Q13
Definitely not eligible	3	Q26
Never heard of funded hours for 2-year olds	4	Q13

ASK IF SQ2a = CODE 3 AND Q12 = CODES 2, 4

All with a 2-year old who don't know if they are eligible for government funded ELC

13. If your two year old child was eligible for the 1140 hours per year of funded early learning and childcare, would you use at least some of these hours?

Select one answer only

	Code	Route
Yes – all of the 1140 hours	1	Q26/Q30
Yes – some of the 1140 hours	2	
No – none of the hours	3	Q14
I don't know	4	Q25

ASK IF Q13 = 3

All with a 2-year old who don't know if they are eligible for government funded ELC, who would not use the entitlement if they were eligible

14. Are there particular reasons that you would not use funded early learning and childcare if your two year old child was eligible?

Select all that apply

	Code
I was not aware of the availability of funded early learning and childcare	1
I don't know how to apply for funded early learning and childcare/I find applying difficult	2
A lack of flexibility or choice in opening hours or sessions available to me	3
A lack of flexibility or choice in available childcare settings and/or types of childcare	4
I have concerns about the associated costs, even if it's funded	5
My travel time would be too long, or transport is not available/too expensive to get to a suitable provider	6
I couldn't find any available providers near me	7
I don't need childcare because my working patterns have changed	8
I think my child is too young	9
I want/am able to look after my child myself most of the time	10
I prefer a family member – e.g. a grandparent – to look after my child when I/my partner is not able to	11
I am concerned my child will catch Covid/pass Covid onto other family members	12
I don't think it would benefit my child's wellbeing and/or development	13
I don't think it would benefit my relationship with my child	14
I am not confident that the providers available can meet the additional support needs of my child	15
Other reason – specify * Fixed *Open	16
Don't know * Fixed*Exclusive	

ASK IF SQ2 = CODE 3 AND Q12 CODE = 1

All with an eligible 2 year old

15. Which of these statements apply to your 2-year old child?

Select one answer only

	Code	Route
My child is currently attending funded early learning and childcare (or starts in the next few weeks)	1	Q16
My child is not currently attending funded early learning and childcare, but has done so in the past 12 months	2	
My child does not currently attend funded early learning and childcare, and has not done so in the past 12 months	3	Q25

ASK IF SQ2a = CODE 3 AND Q15 CODE = 1, 2

All currently using funded ELC for eligible 2 year old

16. What types of funded early learning and childcare have you used for your 2-year old child since August 2021?

Select all that apply

	Code
Local authority nursery class	1
Private nursery	2
Community/voluntary nursery	3
Playgroup (where child attends without parent/carer)	4
Family centre (where child attends without parent/carer)	5
Childminder	6
Other - specify	7
I don't know	8

ASK IF SQ2a = CODE 3 AND Q15 CODE 1, 2

All who use funded childcare for pre-school children aged 2

17. Do you use the full 1140 hours of funded childcare for your child?

	Code
Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	3

ASK IF SQ2a = CODE 3 AND Q15 CODE 1, 2

All who use funded childcare for pre-school children aged 2

18. Which of the following best describes how the funded early learning and childcare hours you use are spread over the year? *Select one answer only*

	Code
Year-round, including school holidays	1
School term time only	2
Other (Please write in below):	3
I don't know	4

ASK IF SQ2 CODES 3 AND Q15 CODE 1, 2

All currently using funded ELC for eligible 2-year old

19. Still thinking about the 2-year child you are answering these questions about, [filter from Q15]

19 a/c. In a typical week, roughly how many hours during term-time [(Q15=1) does your child currently spend/(Q15=2) did you child spend] at funded early learning and childcare?

19 b/d. In a typical week, how many hours during school holidays [(Q15=1) does your child currently spend/(Q15=2) did you child spend] at funded early learning and childcare?

Free ELC	Term-time Hours	Term-time DK	Holidays Hours	Holidays DK
19a /19b Currently spend				
19c/ 19d Previously spend				

ASK IF SQ2a = CODE 3 AND Q12 = CODE 1 AND Q15 = CODES 1 OR 2

All currently using funded ELC or having used since August 2021 for a 2-year old

20. How satisfied or dissatisfied are/were you that you have been offered the flexibility to use your funded hours in a way that meets your family’s needs?

	Code
Very satisfied	1
Fairly satisfied	2
Fairly dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4
Don’t know	5

ASK IF Q20 CODE = 3, 4

All who are dissatisfied with the way they can use their funded hours for eligible children aged 2

21. How would you prefer to use your funded hours? *Select all that apply*

MULTICODE/RANDOMISE

	Code
Throughout school holidays	1
As a blended arrangement with a nursery and childminder	2
With a childminder only	3
Longer sessions on fewer days per week (e.g. 3 days from 8am to 4pm – please use the box below to provide more detail) _____	4
Shorter sessions on more days per week (e.g. 5 days for part of the day – please use the box below to provide more detail) _____	5
Provision outside of normal working hours (e.g. before 8am and after 6pm)	6
Other (Please write in below): <i>*Fixed</i>	7
Don’t know <i>* Fixed *Exclusive</i>	8

ASK IF SQ2a = CODE 3 AND Q15 = CODES 1 OR 2

All currently using government free ELC for eligible 2-year old or have used since Aug 2021

22. How easy or difficult is/was it to travel to the main provider that you use for your funded early learning and childcare hours for your 2-year old child?

	Code
Very easy to get to	1
Fairly easy to get to	2
Fairly difficult to get to	3
Very difficult to get to	4
Someone else takes my child to the provider (e.g. a childminder)	5
I don’t know	6

ASK IF SQ2a = CODE 3 AND Q12 = CODE 1 AND Q15 = CODES 1 OR 2

All currently using government free ELC for eligible 2-year old or have used since Aug 2021

23. What are/were your main reasons for using funded early learning and childcare for your 2-year old child?

Select all that apply

	Code
I think it will be good for my child's learning (e.g. speech and language skills, etc)	1
I think it will be good for my child's social, emotional or behavioural development (including mixing with other children)	2
I think it will help build my child's independence/confidence	3
I think it will be good for my ability to help my child's learning and development at home	4
To work or look for work (yourself or your partner)	5
To increase the number of hours that I or my partner work	6
To study or improve work-related skills (yourself or your partner)	7
To have more time for household tasks such as cooking, DIY, cleaning, etc (yourself or your partner)	8
To have more time to look after other children (yourself or your partner)	9
To have more time to look after myself (ourselves): to rest, de-stress, exercise, socialise, etc	10
To reduce the burden on grandparents/ because informal care not available	11
Other reason – specify * Fixed *Open	12

ASK IF Q17 CODE = 2,3

Ask all those with an eligible 2-year old who use some but not all of their funded entitlement

24. Why is it that you do not use all the funded hours of early learning and childcare for your 2-year old that you are entitled to? *Select all that apply*

RANDOMISE/MULTICODE

	Code
I don't need or want childcare for so many hours	1
I prefer that a grandparent or other close relative looks after my child	2
My child wouldn't like to be separated from myself or my partner for so many hours	3
I don't think it would be good for my child's wellbeing or development	4
I don't think it would be good for my relationship with my child	5
I feel children should not be in nursery for that long	7
I can't get the days/hours I want at the setting of my choice	8
Other reason (Please write in below): *Fixed * Open	9
Don't know *Fixed	10

ASK IF Q13 CODE = 4

Ask all those with an eligible 2-year old/unsure of eligibility who do not use government funded ELC AND all those eligible but who have not used

25. Your 2-year old [may be / is] eligible for 1140 hours per year of free early learning and childcare. Are there particular reasons that you are not using this free early learning and childcare?

Select all that apply

	Code
I was not aware of the availability of funded early learning and childcare	1
I don't know how to apply for funded early learning and childcare/I find applying difficult	2
A lack of flexibility or choice in opening hours or sessions available to me	3
A lack of flexibility or choice in available childcare settings and/or types of childcare	4
I have concerns about the associated costs, even if it's funded	5
My travel time is too long, or transport is not available/too expensive to get to a suitable provider	6
I couldn't find any available providers near me	7
I don't need childcare because my working patterns have changed	8
I think my child is too young	9
I want/am able to look after my child myself most of the time	10
I prefer a family member – e.g. a grandparent – to look after my child when I/my partner is not able to	11
I am concerned my child will catch Covid/pass Covid onto other family members	12
I don't think it would benefit my child's wellbeing and/or development	13
I don't think it would benefit my relationship with my child	14
I am not confident that the providers available can meet the additional support needs of my child	15
Other reason – specify * Fixed *Open	16
Don't know *Fixed	17

Childcare and early learning for children aged under 3

SCRIPTING NOTE: There are three sets of questions for parents (for 3-5 years olds, 2 year olds and 0-2 years. Respondents should be asked a maximum of 2 of these sets – in this priority order.

Therefore, if a parent has qualifying children in all three age groups, they should only answer the questions relating to 3-5 year olds and eligible 2 year olds.

Only those with just 3-5 year olds OR ELC eligible 2 year olds (people coding Q13=1) should proceed to the 0-2 section.

These questions relate to your pre-school children aged under 3 years who are not eligible for funded early learning and childcare.

ASK IF (SQ2a CODE = 1,2) or (SQ2a CODE = 3 AND Q12 CODES = 2,3,4)

Ask all those with a child aged 0-2 (except 2-year-olds eligible for funded ELC)

26. What types of childcare or early learning that you pay for yourself has your child attended since August?

Select all that apply

	Code
None	9
Private nursery	1
Community/voluntary nursery	2
Playgroup	3
Family centre	4
Nanny	5
Childminder	6
Other - specify	7
Not sure	8

ASK IF Q26 CODE = 9 (None)

Ask all those with a child aged 0-2 (except 2-year-olds eligible for funded ELC) who are not currently paying for childcare

27. Are there particular reasons that you are not using childcare that you would pay for yourself for your child aged 0-2 years?

Select all that apply

	Code
I want/am able to look after my child myself most of the time	1
I prefer that a grandparent or other close relative looks after my child	2
I can't afford to pay for childcare	3
I think my child is too young	4
My child wouldn't like to be separated from myself or my partner for so many hours	5
I don't think it would be good for my child's wellbeing or development	6
I don't think it would be good for my relationship with my child	7
I can't get the days/hours I want at the setting of my choice	8
I am concerned my child will catch Covid/pass Covid onto other family members	9
Other reason (Please write in below):	10

ASK IF (SQ2a CODES = 1,2), (SQ2a CODE = 3 AND Q12 CODES = 2,3,4)

Ask all those with a child aged 0-2 who are not eligible for funded ELC

28. Scottish Government are committed to extending funded childcare to 1 and 2 year olds. How interested would you be in using funded childcare or early learning provision for your child aged under 3?

Single code

Level of interest	
Very interested	1
Fairly Interested	2
Not very interested	3
Not at all interested	4
Don't Know	5

ASK IF Q28 (CODE=1,2,5)

Ask all those with a child aged 0-2 and interested in funded ELC

29. How important or unimportant would each of the following be to you when thinking about funded provision for your child under 3.

Select one answer for each factor

Qualities	Very important	Important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't Know	Not applicable
Being able to stay and play/learn with my child	1	2	3	4	5	6
A small, homely setting	1	2	3	4	5	6
Opportunity for my child to meet and play with other children	1	2	3	4	5	6
Opportunity for me to meet and talk with other parents	1	2	3	4	5	6
Convenient location for home	1	2	3	4	5	6
Convenient location for my work	1	2	3	4	5	6
Provide good outdoor experiences	1	2	3	4	5	6
Confidence in the staff	1	2	3	4	5	6
Near to my other children's schools/nurseries	1	2	3	4	5	6
Flexible hours/ sessions	1	2	3	4	5	6
Being able to drop-in with my child when I like/not having to book ahead	1	2	3	4	5	6

Choosing a provider

ASK IF Q2 CODE 1 OR Q15 CODE 1

Ask all those currently using a free ELC provider

30. Thinking about the provider you use for your child(ren)'s funded early learning and childcare hours, how did you choose your current provider? If you use funded ELC for more than one of the children that you have answered the survey about, please answer this question for the 3–5-year-old. *Select all that apply*

MULTICODE/RANDOMISE

	Code
Provider had a good reputation	1
I read inspection reports	2
Convenient location for my home	3
Convenient location for my work	4
I liked/trusted the staff	6
It was the only provider available in the area	7
It had no (or a short) waiting list	8
Because everyone in my local area/neighbourhood goes there	9
It would provide good outdoor experiences for my child	10
My child's older sibling went to same provider	11
It is attached to the primary school which my child will go to	12
It provided the flexibility in hours I needed	14
It provided a homely environment/smaller setting	16
I needed reliability of service	17
It was the only provider where I was offered a place	18
Other (Please write in below):	19

ASK IF Q2 CODE = 1 OR Q15 CODE = 1

Ask all those currently using a funded ELC provider

31. Thinking about the main provider that you use for your funded early learning and childcare hours, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you overall with the quality of the provision?

Overall satisfaction	
Very satisfied	1
Satisfied	2
Dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4
Don't Know	5

Impact of Covid on use of funded early learning and childcare

ASK OF Q2 CODE 1 OR Q15 CODE 1

Ask all those currently using a funded ELC provider

32. Has the Covid-19 pandemic had any impact on your use of funded early learning and childcare, since August 2021?

Single code

Yes - Increased my use of funded ELC	1
Yes - Reduced my use of funded ELC	2
Yes – Other impacts	3
No impacts	4

ASK IF Q32 CODE 1

Ask all those whose use of funded ELC has increased

33. You said you have increased your use of funded early learning and childcare since August 2021 as a result of Covid-19. Please explain why this was.

ASK IF Q32 CODE 2

Ask all those whose use of funded ELC has decreased

34. You said you have reduced your use of funded early learning and childcare since August 2021 as a result of Covid-19. Please explain why this was. Write in below:

ASK IF Q32 CODE 3

Ask all those whose use of funded ELC had other impacts

- 34a. You said your use of funded early learning and childcare since August 2021 had been impacted as a result of Covid-19. Please explain why this was. Write in below:

Children with additional support needs

ASK IF (SQ2a CODE = 3 AND Q12 CODE = 1) OR SQ2a CODE = 4 OR 5 OR 6

Ask all those with eligible children aged 2-5

35. Do any of your pre-school children who are eligible for funded early learning and childcare have any of the following Additional Support Needs (or have had these additional support needs since August 2021)? *Select all that apply*

	CODE	Route
No additional support needs	1	Q40
Autistic spectrum disorder	2	Q36
English as an additional language	3	
Family circumstances (including bereavement and young carers)	4	
Hearing or visual impairment, or deafblind	5	
Language, speech and communication difficulties	6	
Learning difficulties or dyslexia	7	
Looked after by the local authority	8	
Physical or motor impairment, or physical or mental health difficulty	9	
Social, emotional or behavioural difficulty	10	
Other	11	

ASK IF Q35 CODE NOT 1

All those with children with additional support needs

36. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you that your funded early learning and childcare provision meets your child's (children's) additional support needs?

SINGLE

	CODE
Very satisfied	1
Satisfied	2
Dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4
Don't know	5

ASK IF Q36 CODES 3 OR 4

Ask all those who are dissatisfied with access to free ELC that meets additional support needs

37. If you are dissatisfied with your access to funded early learning and childcare for your child(ren) with additional support needs, please tell us about this. Write in below:

ASK IF Q35 CODE NOT 1

All those with children with additional support needs

38. Have you experienced any of the following difficulties finding funded early learning and childcare that meets the additional support needs of your child(ren)? *Please select all that apply*

MULTICODE/RANDOMISE

	CODE
Language barriers between staff and myself / my child leading to communication difficulties	1
Lack of suitable places offered	2
A lack of information on how funded ELC providers support children with additional needs	3
I'm not confident staff have the required qualifications, knowledge or experience	4
I'm not confident staff have the time available to meet my child's needs	5
I'm not confident providers have the environment to suit my child's needs	6
I'm not confident providers have the facilities or equipment to suit my child's needs	7
Other (Please write in below): <i>*Fixed *Open</i>	8
No difficulties <i>*Fixed</i>	9

ASK IF Q35 CODE NOT 1

All those with children with additional support needs

39. Which of the following do you base your decision on when choosing a funded early learning and childcare provider to meet the additional support needs of your child(ren)? *Select all that apply*

MULTICODE/RANDOMISE

	Code
Staff qualifications, training, knowledge or experience	1
Staff who take time to get to know my child well and how best to support them	2
Staff who work with me and other professionals to make sure that my child's needs are met	3
Staff having the time available to meet individual children's needs	4
Staff being able to work with my child in ways which meet their needs	5
The quality of the environment	6
The quality and range of facilities and equipment	7
Don't know <i>*Fixed</i>	8
Other (Please write in below): <i>*Fixed *Open</i>	9

Affordability of early learning and childcare

ASK IF SQ3a~h = CODE 2

Ask all those with a pre-school child (0-5 years) and paying for ELC

40. On average, how much do you currently spend in total per month on childcare for your children who have not yet started primary school? Please include all costs, any fees that you pay, as well as additional expenses that you are responsible for, such as nappies or snacks. An approximate figure will do.

Please write in the box below:

- Total spend per month on childcare for all children in your household who are aged 0-2 years

- Total spend per month on childcare for all children in your household who are aged 3-4 years

- Total spend per month on childcare for any children in your household who are aged 5-years who have not yet started primary school

ASK IF SQ3a~h = CODE 2

Ask all those with a pre-school child (0-5 years) and paying for ELC

41. Have you experienced any difficulties in the last 12 months affording your childcare costs for children below primary age? *Select one answer only*

	Code
No difficulties	1
Some difficulties	2
Significant difficulties	3
I don't know	4
Prefer not to say	5

ASK IF Q41 CODE = 2 or 3

Ask all those who have had difficulty affording ELC

42. Have any of the following made it difficult for you to afford childcare? *Select all that apply*

MULTICODE/RANDOMISE

	Code
The overall cost of the childcare hours I need	1
Having to pay <u>deposits</u> upfront	2
Having to pay <u>childcare fees</u> upfront (e.g. for an entire month, quarter or year)	3
Having to pay other costs upfront such as registration fees	4
Transport costs	5
Additional costs such as for trips or other activities at the childcare provider	6
Prefer not to say <i>*Fixed</i>	7
Other (Please write in below): <i>*Fixed *Open</i>	8

General impact question

ASK IF Q2 CODE = 1,2 OR Q15 CODE = 1,2

All those using currently, or having used funded ELC since August 2021

43. And, could you please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the impact of funded early learning and childcare on you.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree/disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I am able to think about what I may do in the future	1	2	3	4	5
I have undertaken voluntary work	1	2	3	4	5
I have been able to work or look for work	1	2	3	4	5
I have been able to increase the number of hours I work	1	2	3	4	5
I have been able to study or improve work-related skills	1	2	3	4	5
I have been able to care for other family members	1	2	3	4	5
I have had more time to look after myself	1	2	3	4	5
I have been feeling less stressed	1	2	3	4	5
I have been feeling happier	1	2	3	4	5

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

ASK ALL

Finally, about you

This last section asks about you and your household. We use this information to help us better understand survey results. Please remember your survey responses are **completely confidential**, but you can skip any questions that you do not wish to answer.

44. Are you a...?

	Code
Man (including trans man)	1
Woman (including trans woman)	2
Other	3
Prefer not to say	4

45. What was your age on your last birthday?

Prefer not to say

46. Which of the following best describes your household (by household we mean the people who have this accommodation as their only or main residence)?

Select one answer only

	Code
Single parent household	1
Two parent household	2
Other	3
Prefer not to say	4

47. Please tell us about the employment status of all parents or carers in the household.

Select one answer for each

	You	Parent/carer 2 Ask only if code 2 to Q 46
Full-time employment	1	1
Part-time employment	2	2
Self-employed	3	3
Unemployed and looking for work	4	4
Unemployed and not looking for work	5	5
Student	6	6
Retired	7	7
Other	8	8
Prefer not to say	9	9

ASK IF Q47a CODE = 1,2,3

48. How many hours do you normally work in a week – including any paid or unpaid overtime?

_____ Hours

Prefer not to say

49. What is your total household income per year before tax? Include any benefits you or your partner receive.

Select one answer only

	Code
Less than £16,000	1
£16,000 to £29,999	2
£30,000 to £44,999	3
£45,000 to £59,999	4
£60,000 and over	5
Prefer not to say	6

50. Which local authority area do you live in?

	Code
Aberdeen City	1
Aberdeenshire	2
Angus	3
Argyll & Bute	4
Clackmannanshire	5
Dumfries & Galloway	6
Dundee City	7
East Ayrshire	8
East Dunbartonshire	9
East Lothian	10
East Renfrewshire	11
Edinburgh City	12
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	13
Falkirk	14
Fife	15
Glasgow City	16
Highland	17
Inverclyde	18
Midlothian	19
Moray	20
North Ayrshire	21
North Lanarkshire	22
Orkney Islands	23
Perth & Kinross	24
Renfrewshire	25
Scottish Borders	26
Shetland Islands	27
South Ayrshire	28
South Lanarkshire	29
Stirling	30
West Dunbartonshire	31
West Lothian	32
Unsure	33

51. Please write in your postcode below. This will only be used to help us look at how views change across the country, we will not pass your details to anyone else.

Prefer not to say

52. Which of these groups do you consider yourself to belong to?

SINGLE CODE			
White		Indian, Scottish Indian or British Indian	11
Scottish	1	Bangladeshi, Scottish Bangladeshi or British Bangladeshi	12
Other British	2	Chinese, Scottish Chinese or British Chinese	13
Irish	3	Other, please write in	14
Polish	4	African, Scottish African or British African	
Gypsy/traveller	5	Please write in (for example, Nigerian, Somali)	15
Roma	6	Caribbean or Black	
Showman/Showwoman	7	Please write in (for example, Scottish Caribbean, Black Scottish)	16
Other white ethnic group, please write in	8	Other ethnic group	
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups		Arab, Scottish Arab or British Arab	17
Any mixed or multiple ethnic groups, please write in	9	Other, please write in (for example, Sikh, Jewish)	18
Asian, Scottish Asian or British Asian		Prefer not to say	19
Pakistani, Scottish Pakistani or British Pakistani	10		

53. Is English an additional language for any parent or carer in the household?

Select one answer for each

Yes	1
No	2
Prefer not to say	3

54. Do you have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

SINGLE CODE	Code
Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	3
Prefer not to say	4

IF Q54 CODE =1

55. Does your condition or illness reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

SINGLE CODE	Code
Yes, a lot	1
Yes, a little	2
Not at all	3
Prefer not to say	4

56. Is there anything you would like to say about the Scottish Government's expansion of funded early learning and childcare to 1140 hours a year?

Please write in the box below:

GDPR OUTRO

Thank you for taking part in this research survey. This research was commissioned by the Scottish Government.

Please now press the **Submit** button to register your responses.