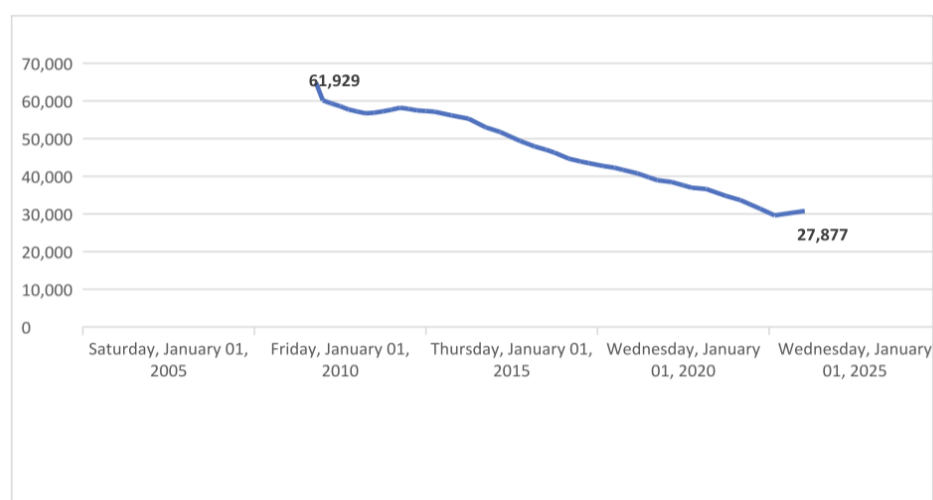




Figure 1: Number of registered childminders



Source: Childcare providers and inspections

Table 1: Mean number of movements in childminders every four months

Joiners	Leaver	Net overall changes
1698.054	2547.216	-849.162

Source: Childcare providers and inspections

Ofsted has provided the number of registered childminders by region. London and South East have the largest number of childminders. The number of childminders has been halved for all regions.

A figure to address the long-term decline in childminders in the final report

Overview of the Data Fellowship

Throughout this fellowship, I learned to seek help from my colleagues, grasp the task by finding original sources of data, and do my research analysis. I practised what I learnt in my course and experienced working culture in the UK. I could overcome the additional barrier of being an international and have a clearer picture of my future as well.

Data Analysis

The research question was about the long-term decline in the number of childminders. literature reviews and discussions with my team have been first done to narrow down the potential reasons. The focused research questions that I set for this project were parents' views on childminders, the increase in the number of private renters, and the low payment of childminders. All the data were gathered from Ofsted and DfE. For further analysis, Excel and R were mainly used.

Findings

- According to the parent survey, in terms of parents' reasons for choosing a main formal provider, 'Convenience' became the most important consideration in 2019 with a 10% increase and 'Economic' factors increased by 21% over 10 years. Therefore, it can be concluded that parents now care more about the convenience and affordability of childcare when they are choosing one
- Childminders are facing problems to obtain landlord permission when they set up businesses in rented properties. This could worsen the ageing culture of childminders. Young people where only 14% of them own their home tend not to join the sector and only 1% of childminders are under 25.

Key Skills Learnt

Communication

While I was talking to policy professionals to discuss my hypothesis and insights from my reading, I was engaged in the discussion and conversation to form research questions. In our team, we have weekly meetings, so I can see how a team works from individuals and share challenges together. At first, I was struggling to ask for help from my team, however, I realised that they welcomed me to ask questions and I could find better sources for my project.

My future

I thought that I would be doing some work related to the police, prison or crime after graduating. However, this enlightened me that I could do something about data analysis as well. It is still a surprise that one course can change my pathway and one work experience can make me think in different ways. Before my data fellowship, I did not think about my future, and it seemed like it was blurred. Now I have more grasp about where I am heading to and where I should arrive.

As an international student

I did not expect that I would be successful in gaining a data fellowship as an international student. I was not confident, and I thought that this opportunity would go to someone else. But this experience proved me wrong. The data fellowship has broken the limit that I have set for myself. Now I know I can do something meaningful and valuable in the UK. The working culture in the UK was quite different from what I expected, which is based on my interpretation of Korea. It was more flexible and independent.

Parent paid fees

69% of childminder's income comes from parent-paid fees in contrast to 8% for nursery classes and maintained nursery schools

Proportion of income in category	Private	Voluntary	Nursery class	MNS	Childminders	All providers	All providers excluding childminders
Parent-paid fees	47%	25%	11%	8%	69%	55%	32%
Free entitlement fundings	43%	63%	75%	64%	18%	33%	55%
Other sources	11%	13%	14%	28%	12%	12%	12%

Source: Department for Education (Providers' finances: Evidence from the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers)

A figure to show the dependency of childminders' income on parent-paid fees in the presentation