



Data Fellowship Project 2024

Department for Education – What is the main barrier to early years settings expanding provision?

Organisation and Team

Department for Education – Early Years
Analysis and Research Unit

Application Criteria

Essential:

- Ability to work independently
- Good analytical skills
- Proficiency in Excel, Outlook and Word
- Ability to use statistical software to perform basic analysis and to produce charts and tables

Desirable:

- Interest in early years and childcare public policy areas
- Data visualisation skills
- Good writing skills and ability to explain statistical results clearly

Project Outline

The successful candidate will work on a self-contained research project using DfE survey and admin data to better understand features of the childcare and early years capacity for places depending on policy-demands at the time.

One topic could be looking at how providers have begun to expand their provision between April-September rollout, identifying the key barriers and common solutions employed by providers.

Another topic could be looking at how parents view the changes occurring within the early years sector, and whether they believe physical capacity and quality have been compromised. A third could be looking more generally at workforce impacts of hypothetical changes to early years entitlements and sufficiency.

The successful candidate will work with a Senior Research Officer or Senior Economic Assistant based at the department to produce innovative and fresh analysis that directly informs national policy-making.



Data Fellowship Project 2024

Practical Considerations

This role will be a mix of home working and the DfE Manchester office, with the option to work full-time at the office if desired.

Selection Method

In person at the University of Manchester

Support and Training

Induction and line management support. DfE also offers various training opportunities to all its staff some of which may be available at the time of the internship

Supporting Information