

## **NICMA *Childcare Matters* survey findings at a glance**

- 83% of respondents thought the Northern Ireland Executive should prioritise the provision of good quality, affordable childcare for all that need it
- 81% of respondents thought tackling the shortage of childminders should be a priority for the Executive
- 30% of parents who had recently looked for childcare said they had found their search 'fairly' or 'very' difficult, with 17% describing it as 'very difficult'
- Parents in rural areas were more likely to find their search difficult
- 52% of parents said the quality of care was an important consideration in seeking childcare, compared to 26% who thought cost was important and 27% who thought convenience mattered
- 52% of parents said it was important that childcare was provided by someone who knows the child
- 74% of parents said they'd prefer to find childcare through a word of mouth recommendation
- Just 1% of parents favoured finding childcare via the internet
- 45% of all respondents thought the quality of care offered by childminders was 'good' or 'very good', while 53% took a similar view of the quality of care provided by nurseries

*The childcare survey was carried out by Ipsos MORI with a representative sample of 1,024 people in Northern Ireland.*