

Dear sir/madam

I work freelance from home after being made redundant during my maternity leave, My 20 month old attends day care for 2 days a week, I recently had another baby but have kept my son in day care because his physical and mental development and social skills have all come on in leaps and bounds. There's many things I can't do with him now my 2nd has come along so I am so pleased he has the chance to do the activities he does at day care, he's is learning so much through structured play, craft activities and themed educational days. Even at 20 month it has a huge impact on him and I can see how he is benefiting rather than just being 'baby sat'. I have great concerns that if the educational focus is taken away from under 3's he will miss out from what I believe is a fantastic start for him and potentially his sister (now 4 months). Also as I've not been able to return to regular work due to my circumstance I have taken the initiative and started a business with my husband, we are still in the early days so funding for my sons daycare is essential to allow us both the time to get it off the ground and a bit of financial freedom while we're still not earning enough through the business to cover the fees completely. If the funding structure changes it will be very difficult for us to keep him in day care and our business start up plan will suffer. I intend to enrol my daughter for 2 days a week once she is 12 months for the exposure socially and educationally I hope things don't change at my day care center in the mean time.

Best regards

Clare Henderson