

Table 1 Characteristics of ECEC and type of provision in England, France and Germany

Country	Childcare/education	Provision	Types of provider (age of child)*
England	Childcare and education	State, private for-profit, private not-for-profit	0-4: day nurseries 2-4: pre-school groups; independent schools; maintained nursery schools; nursery classes 4-5: reception classes in primary schools, independent schools 0-5: childminder
France	Childcare and education (separate)	Mainly state	0-2: <i>crèches, structures collectives</i> 3-6 and some 2-year-olds: <i>écoles maternelles</i> 0-6 : <i>assistante maternelle agréée</i> (childminder)
Germany	Childcare	Mainly private not-for-profit	0-2: <i>Krippen</i> 3- 6: <i>Kindergarten</i> 0-6: <i>Tagesmütter</i> (childminder)

* Compulsory school begins at 6 in France (until September 2019) and Germany, and the term after children reach 5 in England (but children normally start school in year in which they become 5 and enter reception class).

Table 2 Conditions for social investment in ECEC: Availability, affordability and quality

	England	France	Germany
Availability	<p>Part-time free entitlement for disadvantaged 2 year olds</p> <p>Part-time free entitlement 15 hours for 3 and 4 year olds (universal)</p> <p>Additional 15 hours free ‘childcare’ for 3 and 4 year olds of employed parents</p> <p>Participation: 0-2 32% (1) 3-5 100% (1)</p>	<p>Means-tested childcare</p> <p>Nursery school (education) for disadvantaged 2 year olds</p> <p>Nursery school (education) from 3-6 (full-time) (universal)</p> <p>Participation: 0-2 57% (1) 3-5 100% (1)</p>	<p>Legal right to needs-based childcare from the age of one, provision varies according to Land</p> <p>Germany Participation: 0-2 37% (2) 3-5 95% (2)</p> <p>Berlin Participation: 0-2 44% (1) 3-6 91% (2)</p>
Affordability	<p>Free provision for 3-4 year olds and disadvantaged two-year-olds</p> <p>Beyond free provision: no upper limit to fees. Fees not means-tested (average price for 50 hours a week child 0-2 £233 per week, child aged 2, £229 a week) (3)</p> <p>Tax credits 85% of eligible childcare costs (up to a cap) for parents claiming Universal Credit</p> <p>Tax free childcare (£2000 a year) if each parent earns at least £125 per week (and not £100,000 or more per year)</p> <p>Net cost couple with two children: 41% of family income (4)</p>	<p>Means-tested fees for crèches</p> <p>Free provision in nursery schools</p> <p>Tax credit for the employment of an assistante maternelle 50% (up to a cap)</p> <p>Tax credit of 50% up to a maximum of €2,300 per year for childcare expenses (not school) (les frais de garde d’enfants)</p> <p>Net cost couple with two children: 10% of family income (4)</p>	<p>Free childcare: varies according to Land</p> <p>Berlin: Free provision 5-7 hours; 7-9 hours a day (conditional on need); means tested beyond free entitlement</p> <p>Tax allowance up to € 4,000 per child per year (Kinderbetreuung)</p> <p>Net cost couple with two children: Germany (Hamburg): 5% of family income (4)</p>
Quality: qualifications & training	<p>Upper secondary qualification for managers in private centres</p> <p>Qualified teachers in maintained nursery schools/classes for children over three</p> <p>Childminders: Introductory childcare course. Number of hours training not specified</p>	<p>Childcare centres: auxiliary nursery nurses (auxiliaires en puériculture): upper secondary qualification; almost all centres employ éducateurs des jeunes enfants and nursery nurses (puéricultrices) with degree (6)</p> <p>Qualified teachers in école maternelle</p> <p>Childminders: 120 hours of training paid by the state</p>	<p>Vocational degree for ‘educator’</p> <p>Childminders: Varies according to Land. Berlin: 160 hours of training</p>

Quality: staff-to-child ratios	1:3 for under-tuos; 1:4 for two-year-olds; 1:8 for three-year-olds unless there is a qualified teacher (1:13) (6) Nursery schools and nursery classes 1:13 (6)	Childcare centres: specified ratios 1:5 for children who cannot walk and 1:8 for those who can (7) Nursery schools: no ratios stipulated (8)	Varies according to Land 0-3 year olds: average 1:4 2-8 year olds: average 1:9 Berlin: 0-3 years old: 1:6; 2-8 years old: 1:8 (9)
Quality: curriculum	Early Years Foundation Stage: mandatory	Childcare centres: Projet éducatif École maternelle: national curriculum	Varies according to Land Berlin: compulsory curriculum
Quality: inspection	Ofsted (national)	Childcare : local protection maternelle et infantile Nursery schools: Ministry's Inspection générale IGEN (national)	Varies according to Land Berlin: childcare centres evaluated externally every five years

Notes: (1) OECD 2016c (2016 data) (2) Statistisches Bundesamt 2018a (3) Harding and Cottell 2018 (4) Net costs for a couple, for full-time care with two children one aged two and one aged three, at a typical childcare centre, as a percentage of family net income (2012) OECD, 2016c (5) EC/EACEA/Eurydice/Eurostat 2014 (6) DfE 2017 (7) Cnaf 2017 (8) IGEN and IGAENR, 2011 (9) Statistisches Bundesamt 2018b