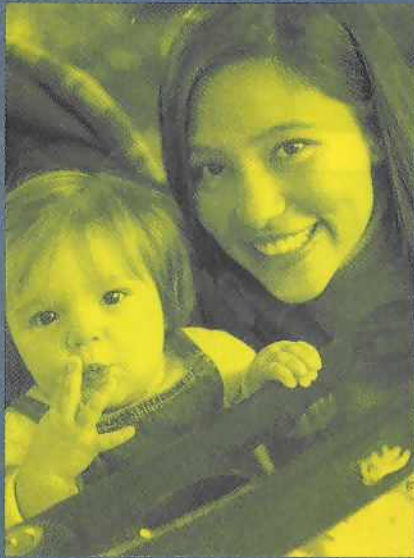


# Mother's pride

From bumps to babies and back to work, plus pointers for getting your child off to a better start



Looking for childcare? Need a nanny? Sure Start is the Government's programme to deliver the best start in life for every child by bringing together early education, childcare, health and family support.

The leaflet *More Choice for Childcare* sets out to help parents make informed choices for their families, giving them access to high quality childcare and early years services and

more flexibility to balance work and family life. It explains the existing support available for parents, including early years services, free early education places, help with childcare costs and Sure Start local programmes.

The leaflet also outlines the additional support that will become available between now and 2010. This includes universal access to Sure Start Children's Centres, schools opening between 8am and 6pm, an increase in maternity leave, more free early education and more affordable childcare.

Around three million leaflets have been distributed through GP surgeries, libraries, hospitals, health centres, post offices and *Bookstart* packs. It complements an

updated version of the *Looking for Childcare?* booklet. Copies of the free leaflets can be ordered by emailing [dfes@prolog.uk.com](mailto:dfes@prolog.uk.com) and quoting reference 0044-2006LEF-EN and LEA-125-2005.

The *Bookstart* scheme provides free books for every child at 9 months, 18 months and three years to encourage children to read and parents to help them. Education Secretary Ruth Kelly, who launched the scheme, said: "All the evidence shows us that children whose parents are engaged in their learning do better at school."



## Early education

Kent Children's Information Service (CIS) provides free confidential and impartial information and advice to parents about early years education and childcare services in Kent. CIS holds lists of registered childminders, nurseries, out of school clubs, playgroups and children's leisure activities. Their booklet gives information on all types of provision for three and four-year-olds and