System map of Early Childhood Education and Care

Decision-making

Motivations

- Supporting early learning and school readiness
- Enabling study and/or workforce participation
- Supporting parent/carer wellbeing
- Lack of alternatives

Values

- Quality
- Location
- Cost
- Flexibility and convenience
- Feeling welcome and supported

Sources

Supports and information

- Informal networks
- Parent groups
- Social media
- ECEC providers
- Government websites

Structural barriers

- Lack of availability
- Travel distance and poor connectivity
- Inaccessibility for children with additional needs
- Lack of flexibility
- Quality issues
- Cultural inaccessibility
- Out-of-pocket costs
- Challenges with the CCS
- Lack of transparent accessible information
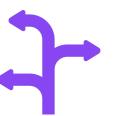
Psychological barriers

- Lack of knowledge about the ECEC system
- Value judgements and expectations
- Feeling overwhelmed by choices and information
- Concerns about quality and safety

Common experiences

- Fear and anxiety
- Self-advocacy
- Long waitlists
- Individual burden of knowledge
- Seeking measures of quality
- Action prompted by key moments

How do parents and carers navigate and access ECEC?

What makes it difficult for parents and carers to navigate and access quality ECEC?

What is it like for parents and carers seeking to access and navigate ECEC?