



**mothers
at home
matter.**

Dear Editor

Mothers at Home Matter support widening the options for childcare, freeing parents to spend on childcare as they see fit.

Liz Truss' campaign pledge to remove the penalties for stay-at-home parents is a positive step in ending discrimination and we call for a level economic playing field that any funds available to help with childcare should also be accessible for parents caring at home.

Parents **do** want **choice**. The latest survey by the Department of Education 2021 (released in August 2022) shows that the majority of mothers, if there were no barriers, would rather work fewer hours and be home more with their children. This was a survey of 5,955 parents with children aged 0-14yrs. If the survey was narrowed to mothers of children 0-3yrs the figures for those wanting to be more at home would no doubt be even higher.

Our economic system fails because it does not recognise this work as 'growth in GDP'. Work done 'for love' by a parent is not counted, whereas the same work 'done for money' in a traded economy is counted as valuable - regardless of which has a better result. If evidence of growth is needed, then perhaps it is time to re-evaluate what can/can't be measured.

Whilst MAHM recognises that many mothers find fulfilment in work outside the home, many others cherish this time but are currently not economically free to make the choice to care for their own children at home. One size does not fit all and works neither for all mothers nor all children.

Yours sincerely

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Chair, Mothers at Home Matter

mothersathomematter.com

Year: 2021	Family type		
	Partnered mothers	Lone mothers	All
Views	%	%	%
<i>Base: All working mothers with child(ren) aged 0 to 14</i>	2,438	871	3,309
If I could afford to give up work, I would prefer to stay at home and look after my children			
Agree strongly	14	12	13
Agree	17	16	16
Neither agree nor disagree	17	20	17
Disagree	40	40	40
Disagree strongly	13	13	13
If I could afford it, I would work fewer hours so I could spend more time looking after my children			
Agree strongly	24	17	22
Agree	36	34	36
Neither agree nor disagree	12	18	14
Disagree	23	25	24
Disagree strongly	5	6	5
If I could arrange good quality childcare which was convenient, reliable and affordable, I would work more hours			
Agree strongly	4	8	5
Agree	17	21	18
Neither agree nor disagree	13	21	15
Disagree	47	37	44
Disagree strongly	19	15	17