

# Childcare markets: Do they work? <sup>[1]</sup>

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14 Feb 2012

Occasional paper 26


24pp

ISBN 978-1-896051-53-6

This paper explores some of the conflicting priorities between childcare by for-profit entrepreneurs and non-profit or state systems. The paper considers the limitations of using the market as a workable model for the organisation and delivery of childcare. It presents a brief overview of the reach of economics as a basis for making decisions about childcare, and describes changes in ideas about the application of market principles to traditional welfare contexts.

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