



Childminder in Basingstoke wins £150 worth of sayshopping vouchers

By completing an online survey about Childcare vouchers, Elaine Gutteridge, a childminder from Basingstoke in Hampshire, was automatically entered into a prize draw to win SayShopping vouchers for the amount of £150.

Elaine, who has 2 teenage children herself, has been a registered childminder since 1998 and works from her home in Basingstoke. During this summer she looks after 4 children, their ages are 8 months, 2 years, 4 years & 8 years. When the school term starts again in September, her group will increase to a maximum of 5 children per day.

When Elaine was presented with the SayShopping vouchers she said: *"I am over the moon with the £150 in gift vouchers, I have never won such a big prize before, so I am really thrilled! The vouchers are coming in very handy as there are always new items to purchase for the children to play with"*.

With regards to the Childcare voucher schemes Elaine receives her payments through, she said: *"I am so pleased that parents use the e-voucher scheme from Childcarepass, it means that I don't need to do any paperwork or manual redemption as the money is automatically being paid into my account every month. It is certainly one less thing for me to worry about."*

The survey Elaine completed was distributed during July 2007 by Sodexo Pass, the company behind Childcarepass and Childcare Choice. Just over 10,000 carers were invited to share their views and ideas on the current childcare voucher scheme(s) they are registered with.

The response rate of this survey was a massive 12%. This has given Sodexo Pass a very good understanding of what carers like about the childcare voucher service and what they think should be improved. An interesting fact the survey revealed, was that 55% of the carers' invoices are settled with Childcare vouchers for up to a quarter of the total bill. Another question covered the preferences of type of vouchers and 86% of carers would prefer to receive e-vouchers if they had the choice. The main reasons given for that choice were the fact that payment is quick, easy and hassle free and also eco-friendly.



Notes to editors

About Sodexo Pass

Sodexo Pass UK is a leading provider of voucher services in the UK.

In September 2001 the company launched 'Childcarepass', bringing fresh innovation and much needed customer service to the childcare voucher market. In November 2004, the company launched Childcare Choice – a second childcare voucher scheme aimed at small to medium sized companies. Visit www.childcarechoice.co.uk or www.childcarepass.co.uk for further details.

Sodexo Pass UK was voted 'Childcare Voucher Provider of the Year' at the annual Employee Rewards and Benefits Magazine gala dinner in February 2006. The award was given in recognition of Sodexo Pass UK bringing innovation and customer focussed development into the childcare voucher industry. Visit www.sodexopass.co.uk for further details.

About childcare vouchers

Childcare vouchers which allow parents to save money on their income tax and National Insurance Contributions were introduced by the Government in 2005. Childcare vouchers offer significant savings to both employers and employees. The maximum each parent can now save is £1,195 per year. Employers operating the scheme pay reduced Employer National Insurance Contributions, resulting in savings of up to £373 per year for every employee who is signed up to the scheme.

About the research

The research was conducted by Sodexo Pass' internal marketing agency, using their in-house online survey facility and was gained from a sample of 1287 registered child carers.

About SayShopping

Sodexo is the world's largest integrated facilities management services organisation and leading global issuer of service vouchers and cards. In the UK Sodexo provides innovative food and management services to businesses and industry, including the education, healthcare, leisure and defence sectors, employing 48,000 people in 2300 units nationwide. Sodexo has 27 years of international experience of the voucher business, operating in 27 countries, with over 800,000 affiliated partners and 14 million voucher recipients. Earlier this year, the company was named the UK's 'Childcare Voucher Provider of the Year 2006' by Employee Rewards and Benefits magazine.



SayShopping was launched in September 2006 and to date has 46 retail brands as partners in sectors ranging from fashion and cosmetics to days out and holidays.

The voucher website is www.sayshopping.co.uk

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