

Stressful Choices

RACHEL BROWNE | The Sun Herald | August 8, 2010

JENNIFER DALITZ made all the usual preparations when she found out she was expecting: buying baby clothes, setting up the nursery and putting her unborn child's name down on a waiting list at the local childcare centre.

But after Ethan was born 18 months ago, she discovered progress on the list was slow. She managed to enrol him at another centre so she could return to work but had concerns about the quality of care.

"Unfortunately, it was an ABC centre - the staff were lovely but they were under so much strain not knowing what their future held," the Mosman mother said.

"One by one they all started to leave. I would turn up to the centre and there would be no one there who I knew. The staff didn't know my son. It was a bit disconcerting. I found it really stressful. You want to know your child is safe and happy when you go to work but I couldn't stop worrying about it."



Knowing her son was safe made a huge difference... Jennifer Dalitz and Ethan.
Photo: Janie Barrett, The Sun Herald

Ms Dalitz, the chief executive of Sphinxx, an organisation that helps advance women as leaders, finally managed in April to secure a spot for Ethan three days a week at the centre of her choice, more than a year after she put his name down.

She is happy with the new centre, which costs \$115 a day.

"It is a vast improvement," she said. "Knowing that he is somewhere where he is safe and happy makes a huge difference."