

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-346
Ein cyf/Our ref LA/06626/11

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

9 December 2011

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 November about free childcare for 3-4 year olds.

You will wish to be aware that all local authorities have a statutory duty to offer a minimum of 10 hours a week of free education (Foundation Phase) to all three and four year olds. This provision plays an important part of parent's childcare arrangements and funding to support local authorities meet this duty is provided through the "Nursery and primary school teaching and other services" element of the Welsh Local Government Revenue Settlement.

However, the responsibility for planning and securing suitable nursery education rests with individual local authorities and their Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

I am aware that the arrangements adopted by some local authorities provide parents with more flexibility when taking up the offer of a free education places. My officials are currently exploring options which will ensure that similar arrangements are applied across Wales.

The Deputy Minister for Social Services is also considering how best to support parents and respond to the recommendations of the recent Daycare Trust/Save the Children report "The Childcare Trap: Making Work Pay".

Yours sincerely
Leighton Andrews

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