

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau / Petitions Committee
Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

3 May 2012

Dear Committee members

I am a working parent with one young child living in the Vale of Glamorgan, and I would like to support P-04-346: Petition on provision of early years education. I did not sign the petition as I was unaware of its existence. I understand that although the petition is now closed for signatures you are still collecting evidence.

I understand that you are interested in three main areas:

1) Are you able to access early years education for your 3-4 year old in a way that is convenient to you?

No, as both parents work and we cannot change our working hours to fit around the provision as it exists at the moment.

2) Does the provision of early years education for your 3-4 year old enhance or hinder your opportunities to work or study?

It completely hinders opportunities to work. There are not many jobs that would permit such flexible working hours, and in the present economy, not many people can afford to reduce their working hours to fit in around the scheme as it currently exists.

3) Have you declined to take up provision for early years education for your 3-4 year old as it is inconvenient for you to do so? If so, what childcare provisions have you made instead?

Due to the inflexibility of the scheme, we will have to turn down the provision and continue with full time private nursery at our own cost. It is unacceptable that some people are able to benefit from the scheme simply because they are more able to be flexible.

I hope that there is a serious review of this provision. As it currently stands, I feel that working parents are being discriminated against and penalised for working to support

their families, as there is absolutely no flexibility whatsoever to accommodate parents who work full time

Yours sincerely,

Rachel MacRae