

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

Monday 30th April 2012

Dear Committee members

I am a working parent with two young children 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?*

It's not at all convenient. I work 4 full days per week and my husband works full-time. Both our children have been in a private nursery for 4 days per week since they were 9mths old. The provision of 2.5 hours per day at a different nursery is not helpful.

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

It in no way enhances my opportunity to work. It would be impossible to find a job that only requires 2 hours per day, especially at a professional level.

*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?*

When our 1<sup>st</sup> child was eligible for a state nursery place, we needed wrap around care to make this viable and this is provided by our private nursery. It is actually MORE expensive for them to support taking our child to and from the state nursery (due to the expense of running vehicles etc.) than it would be for her to remain full-time in the private nursery. As you can imagine this is a significant financial burden for our family.

We chose the private nursery we current use after some research and have been very happy with the level of care, education and happiness is brings our children. We strongly believe that parents should be able to chose where the 'state funding for 3-4yrs' is allocated, either via State nursery or directly towards care in a private nursery.

Alternatively, could State nursery care be provide for 2 full days we week? This level of flexibility would be appreciated by many working families who are struggling to finance their young children through combinations of childcare and nursery education.

England seems to have a very sensible approach to this issue. This model has been in place for some years and parents I know in England find it flexible, sensible and supportive for a working family.

Thank you for taking time to review this issue, I look forward to your positive response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felicity Palmer', is centered on a light green rectangular background.

Felicity Palmer