

I am making this submission in my capacity as an individual with nearly 5 years' experience working in the early learning and care sector.

I am a early childhood teacher, having done my university degree overseas. I have been working in the same company for nearly five years now, mainly with children between 3 and 5 years of age. I am also the Educational leader in my centre and hold responsibilities in guiding all practice throughout the centre.

I believe the first five years are paramount to a child's development. It is at this stage that children learn the most and start to acquire the skills they will be needing in their future as people and citizens of society. Therefore, I believe early learning centres play an extremely important role in children's development, by having qualified educators, who know all about child development and the best ways for the children to achieve their best in all areas.

I think with the introduction of the National Quality Framework and the Early Years Learning Framework, the early learning sector has shown a lot of improvement and has gotten more recognition within society, as it is not so much looked at as a place where children are babysat but rather where there are professionals which will help their children learn and develop through play. And I think if this improvement continues to happen, with the help of the government funding to allow lower fees and higher wages for the educators, the sector will become more and more recognised and more educators will want to work in early learning, reducing the shortage of staff that there currently is. Families will also benefit from the government funding, with lower fees being put in place, and I believe there will be more people placing their children in childcare, as they will be able to afford it.

To conclude, in my opinion, education is one of the key sectors in a government of a nation and seeing the first five years of child's life are so important in their development, the childcare sector should be looked at as being extremely important too, being funded for and assisted by the government in any way possible.