

To Whom It May Concern,

As a parent, my key concerns with childcare are the quality of the carers and educators who care for my children and the price I have to pay when choosing to return to work.

I have one child, who is one year old, in a not for profit long day care center at Good Start.

I am concerned with the proposal to reduce qualifications requirements for educators of children aged zero to three years.

Countless studies have shown the benefit to companies in having a diverse workforce, a healthy mix of both males and females. The availability of places at childcare center in my area and the cost of these places where available is prohibitive to many families. To that end many females are forced to stay home with their children, forgo their chosen career. As access to affordable childcare is a big challenge for many families, I welcome the recognition that the overall level of childcare assistance needs to be increased.

I expect, if I choose to entrust my children to a formal care environment that I leave them with educators who are qualified to support their individual learning and care needs at a price I can afford. My family values quality early learning for children, particularly in the early years before they are three. We want to feel comfortable leaving our children with educators who know and understand the development of my child.

The first three years of life are a vital part of a child's development, having educators who understand and contribute to my child's development is important to me.

Please understand that the situation in childcare centers has over the last couple of years got to breaking point and this needs to be fixed now. Families **DON'T** need to be given money to have children, what we **DO** need is a safe, nurturing, educational environment where we can leave our children.

Regards,

Michaela Wareing