

**ANONYMOUS 17454 - New submission from Early Years Strategy - Public Submissions**

Paid parental leave needs to be prioritised for BOTH parents so they have more time to support the growth and development of their children as the first few years of life set the foundations for the later years. More paid leave must be available for families. Also, early childhood teachers are undervalued and underpaid for what they do. Finally, more support is needed for mothers postpartum - better and more convenient access to health care, mental health services, support groups, even little things like meal trains