

**17204 - New submission from Early Years Strategy - Public Submissions**

I am a woman of colour who comes from a rainbow family. My partner has a disability. We face many challenges in raising our children. one huge one is childcare. I need to work full time to support our family, and my partner cares for our children. It is essential he has time to rest and undertake his own work, and for this reason childcare is very important to our family. the wait list times for childcare in our area are obscene. We consider ourselves lucky to have the few slots we have secured.

Our childcare centre does a phenomenal job at supporting us in raising our children. However, I know the staff are not well paid. They are not well supported, despite what they do for us. I believe their sector needs major changes to ensure the staff are paid what they deserve, while ensuring that families like mine can still afford and access care.

This space holds the keys to so many pathways for the children, families and workers to be their best. Please do not miss this chance to reflect its importance through improving conditions for all.