



Robert Goodwill MP

Minister of State for Children and Families

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20th July 2017

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to introduce myself as the Minister of State for Children and Families. I am pleased to be adding early years to my portfolio - my wife previously owned a playgroup, and so I have a keen appreciation for the work that providers do to ensure that the highest-quality provision is accessible for all children across the country.

As you can imagine, the Secretary of State, Justine Greening, and I are both very clear that successful delivery of 30 hours free childcare for working parents is a key priority. I want to thank you for your efforts in preparing for national rollout in September and working with my Department to make September a success. This has all been accomplished alongside 95% of three and four-year-old children accessing the existing 15 hours universal entitlement, and a rise in the percentage of disadvantaged two-year-olds taking up 15 hours. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to these important programmes.

Your efforts are particularly evident in the impressive results from our recently published Study of Early Education and Development (SEED), which showed the positive impact childcare has on social, emotional and cognitive development; and with 93% of early years providers currently rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, the sector continues to excel in all aspects of early years.

As we approach September, we are already seeing great success in our 12 early delivery areas, which are now delivering almost 15,000 places to eligible children. Providers in these areas have responded positively to parental demand for 30 hours, and we are already seeing the positive impact the additional hours are having on families, taking huge pressures off finances and reducing parental stress. We also know that some parents have been able to enter into employment as a result, with many parents being able to increase their working hours.

As you may be aware, we have recently published an updated version of the [operational guidance](#), providing further advice for you on delivery of the 30 hours offer. Alongside this, we also published a bank of case studies and the [evaluation report of Early Implementation](#), which showcase how schools, childminders, private, voluntary and independent providers are offering 30 hours successfully.

I hope that these documents are informative and provide you with the support you need to deliver the 30 hours offer from September.

I am truly grateful and impressed by your skills, efforts and ongoing commitment to delivering high quality early education. Thank you for all your excellent work, and I look forward to working with you to ensure that we continue to help parents balance work and childcare.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Goodwill', with a large loop at the top and a stylized end.

Robert Goodwill MP
Minister of State for Children and Families