

9 May 2017

Dear [political party policy lead],

**RE: Early Years Election Pledges**

I am writing on behalf of our members – 30,000 childminders, nannies, nursery workers and students – to ask for your support as you formulate your party’s key policies for the general election. As the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (PACEY), our aim is for all children to experience high quality childcare and early learning. We support the early years workforce through training, resources, advice, and peer support, and champion the vital role they play in helping prepare children for a bright future.

The next few months are set to be absolutely critical for the sector, as providers and local authorities prepare to implement the new 30-hour offer and eligible parents decide where they will take up their entitlement. PACEY’s recent [Building Blocks survey](#) found that two-thirds of providers were either unsure about offering 30 hours or unwilling to do so, and that confidence in future financial prospects is down overall. What can the next government do to build up the sector’s confidence – and build on its passion, dedication and increasing professionalism?

PACEY is calling on all political parties to make four pledges to support young children and their families if they form governments in England or Wales:

1. Provide sustainable funding for funded childcare and early education places, so the extension to 30 hours can be delivered to all working families who need it;
2. Put quality at the heart of all childcare and early years policy and funding decisions, so all children receive the high quality early learning that gives them a strong foundation for the future;
3. Deliver a childcare and early years workforce strategy in partnership with the sector which removes the key barriers to career progression and ensures practitioners are fairly rewarded for the vital role they play;
4. Promote childcare, especially childminding, as a valued and viable career option, increasing recruitment and retention rates, and supporting a diverse childcare offer for families.

Combined, these four pledges aim to ensure that *all* young children have access to high quality early education and childcare, improving social mobility and ultimately ensuring we have the skills we need for our future economy. I would be happy to discuss these pledges in more detail with you; please get in touch if I can be of assistance.

Best wishes,



**Liz Bayram**

Chief Executive

Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years