

Invest in Young Children

early years
the organisation for young children



Young children across Northern Ireland are losing out - this is something our MLAs and Executive can help change.

Early Years is the largest organisation in Ireland dedicated to the needs of young children.

Here are some of the facts - make your local MLA aware of them and ask them to press for action.

The Facts

- X Fact** The UK has 3500 children's centres – a one-stop-shop for all of your child's health and educational needs. Northern Ireland had none.
We Need An investment of £10 million for 20 children's centres in Northern Ireland.

- X Fact** In Northern Ireland there is no training and development strategy for people working with young children. In England and Wales £200 million was allocated for this type of training.
We Need An investment of £5 million per year to give people working with young children here the same opportunities.

- X Fact** In Northern Ireland each child gets 12½ hour of pre-school education per week for one year. In the England and Wales each child gets each child gets 20 hours of government funded pre-school per week, for two years.
We Need Our children to have the same; 20 hours of government funded pre-school education per week for two years. This would cost the government an additional £840 per year per child.

- X Fact** There is no financial support to enable children with special needs to be included in voluntary or private pre-schools.
We Need An initial investment of £5million to give children with special needs the same chance as every other child.

- X Fact** Research shows that young children's attitudes and behaviours are influenced by conflict and divisions in Northern Ireland.
We Need Young children deserve a peaceful, inclusive future and must be part of peace-building and The Shared Future agenda.