

Information Briefing



Issue No 10 - August 2008

Welcome to the latest edition of the Early Years Information Briefing for the early childhood sector. This is one in a series of briefing papers which will be issued for Early Years staff, members and key stakeholders including MLAs, Ministers and Civil Servants.

EARLY YEARS MEETS ENVIRONMENT MINISTER TO RESOLVE DAY CARE TRANSPORT ISSUES

An exemption scheme for courtesy transport in registered childcare providers will be introduced from September 2008 by the DVA. The exemption scheme will be available to all registered providers who use transport other than minibuses to transport children to and from child care services. The scheme will be a short term solution, prior to a longer term review of courtesy transport in childcare.

Siobhan Fitzpatrick, Chief Executive of Early Years - the organisation for young children met with Sammy Wilson, Environment Minister to discuss plans to implement the exemption scheme. Minister Wilson asked for the meeting with Early Years to follow up a commitment made by the previous Environment Minister, Arlene Foster to resolve the issue.

A meeting will be held by the DVA and Early Years at the end of August to brief day care providers on the new scheme, providing application packs, information and advice. The briefing meeting will take place at the end of August at Early Years Headquarters in Belfast, information will be sent out confirming the meeting.

Siobhan Fitzpatrick of Early Years said: "Early Years have lobbied the DOE closely to ensure that this issue is resolved, courtesy transport for childcare cannot be subject to the same licensing rules as commercial taxis. The cost and knock on effect to parents and childcare businesses would have far reaching consequences. I would like to thank the minister for resolving the issue so quickly."

Early Years - the organisation for young children

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