

Dear Prime Minister

We applaud your commitment to improving outcomes in early childhood as set out in your Plan for Change. We welcome the public support for the early years from the Secretary of State for Education, and the wider focus on babies and young children from your Cabinet.

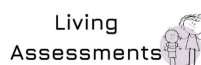
As charities, funders, providers and professional bodies, we stand ready to work in partnership with your government to create real and lasting change in the lives of children and families.

The decisions made by the Spending Review on 11 June will set the context for the final stages of the Best Start in Life pillar of the Opportunity Mission, the 10 Year Health Plan and the Child Poverty Strategy, all of which are critical if we are to increase the number of children reaching a Good Level of Development. The Plan for Change stated you would prioritise spending decisions that would contribute to this milestone. Now we must see substantial, sustained investment in early years and family support if we are to deliver it.

But the milestone must not be an end point in itself, or lead us to ignore those babies and young children who are less likely to reach a Good Level of Development, including disabled children and those with Special Educational Needs, or are too young to be in Reception by 2028. We want to work with you to create a new, inclusive vision for early childhood from conception to reception.

As a sector we stand united around a shared vision for the early years. We are asking that you and the Chancellor seize this opportunity at the Spending Review to invest in early years services and social security to ensure every child is included and supported to thrive.

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