

The Dublin City Childcare Focus Group calls on Parents to make Childcare an issue in the upcoming election

In discussing the upcoming elections, the Dublin City Childcare Focus Group has compiled a list of important issues, which parents might lobby their politicians on.

Issues that Parents might Raise

- **No further reduction of Child Benefit**
- **Extend the hours of the ECCE scheme and make it available for 2 years**
- **Provide childcare vouchers for After School and Out of School care. This should be applicable to childminders and both private and community childcare providers.**
- **Tax credits for all childcare fees.**
- **Indoor and outdoor recreational areas and play spaces should be available for all ages up to 18 years**
- **Hold the referendum on Children's Rights**

The Dublin City Childcare Focus Group

The Dublin City Childcare Focus Group was formed in 2001 under the auspices of Dublin City Community Forum. It is comprised of Community and Private childcare providers, and of parents accessing both types of services. The aim of the Childcare Focus Group is to encourage two-way communications between childcare providers and parents.

www.dublincommunityforum.ie



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Issues that Childcare Providers might Raise

- Speed up Garda Vetting process and issue I.D. card to those vetted to be renewed every two years.
- A career framework for childcare staff to be rolled out based on qualifications with accompanying salary scale. Ongoing funding required for Continuing Professional Development.
- Align school starting age to upper ECCE limits with ECCE Payment rates to reflect realistic cost of provision.
- Local Authority rates to be abolished or reduced.
- Tax childminders only on the income above the €15,000 threshold, not the full amount if they exceed income of €15,000.
- All children have a right to a place in a preschool service regardless of age, disability, parent's means, or employment status.
- Adequate financial support is required by all providers, both private and community, to engage qualified professionals to deliver a quality service. Providers should not be dependant on labour market programmes or unskilled, untrained staff due to financial constraints.

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