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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 31 May 2007 15:15  
**To:**  
**Subject:** FW: Early Years

-----Original Message-----

**From:**  
**Sent:** 31 May 2007 14:56  
**To:** Scrutiny  
**Subject:** Early Years

Dear Tim Oldham,

I would like to contribute the following views as both a child psychologist and a mother to your debate on early years provision.

Whatever provision is offered to children in their early years should be equitable and accessible for all. If provision needs to be rationed this should be determined by an ability to pay rather than on a first come first served basis.

Whilst good quality early years education for 3- 4 year olds is very important there are additional ways of spending money which would be of real benefit to all children on the island such as the improvement of maternity and paternity benefits, investment in play facilities accessible to all for the under fives, and an increased capacity for projects aimed at supporting parents and young children such as the NSPCC project at Samares. The first year of life is of particular importance in the development of strong attachments between carers and their babies and economic factors in Jersey appear to work to discourage parents to take significant periods of carers leave from work.