To: Scrutiny
Subject: RE: Early years provision

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From: Adam & Nichola
Sent: 13 November 2007 13:30
To: Scrutiny
Subject: Early years provision

To whomb it may concern,
I hope that I am not too late to comment on the scrutiny investigation into the provision of early years debate. Can I ask why Jersey is still unwilling to consider the findings of other countries that have already investigated the impact to children and society that a pre-school provision makes? Surely we as an island are not that arrogant to believe that these findings, in so many countries, are not going to have any relevance here simply because "Jersey is different". And if this belief that the impact of high quality ealry education and financial provision IS different here in Jersey, then can I ask why Jersey has not had a government-funded longitudinal study of effective practice in pre-school education? Surely our government should not simply be asking for money to solve any issues. We should be sure that the money that is asked for, or already being provided is being spent int he right places. Countries such as America, Italy, Scandinavia as well as the UK have all done just this. America discovered a clear relation between early education and teenage/young adult crime - And didn't KAthy Bull express similar sentiments on her visit to Jeresy? In England the government funded the EPPE project to not only determine where money should be spent but also on the type of provision that encourages well balanced, social children (who become well adjusted, balanced and social adults). Again its findings were related to the early years provision - it noted that sectors that had staff trained to graduate levels were providing a higher standard of education/care. But yet again I ask that if the belief is that this is different because "we are different in Jersey" then a study of provision here in jersey is required. We cannot (and should not) be simply listening to an argument between two very different camps - of course they are going to say that the provision they are giving is better than there rival, that they are being run out of buisness, etc. I would like to end this letter by saying surely in jeresy we sould not really be having a debate about wether a buisness is able to make sufficient profit out of Jersey children? Are our children not worth more to us than this? Adam