Draft National Plan to Improve Literacy and Numeracy in Schools

Consultation with Early Childhood Education Interests

Monday 11 April 2011 – 2pm

Attendees

Alan Wall, DES (Chair)
Harold Hislop, DES
Eamonn Murtagh, DES
Anne O’Mahony, DES
Kaye Fallon, DES
Irene Gunning, Irish Preschool Play Association
Toby Wolfe, Start Strong
Michelle Hart, Border Counties Childcare Network
Josephine Bleach, Director, Early Learning Initiative in the NCI
Beth Fagan, Co-ordinator, Parent Child Home Programme, NCI

Key points made to the Department in addition to those in the written submissions:

- All of the targets in the Draft Plan need to have dates, in particular, those relating to upskilling the early years workforce.

- The actions for early years are ambitious in the context of the current level of the workforce.

- Requirements in relation to the qualification level of the workforce need to be progressively increased over time.

- Education Centres should have a wider remit and be available also to early childcare practitioners.

- The plan needs more detail on the mechanisms for involving parents in their children’s learning.

- Care must be taken in early childhood education to ensure that the emphasis is on developing children’s oral language, literacy and numeracy skills through play.

- In general, there is little communication or sharing of information between pre-school and primary school making the transition more difficult than it should be.