



## Seven Priorities for Early Years Policymaking

- 1. A long-term commitment to the sustainable wellbeing of children, families, communities and society**
- 2. The creation of a new independent guidance body/European Alliance on The Science of Early Human Learning and Development**
- 3. Cross-party early years policymaking that is underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**
- 4. The creation of a cross-party cabinet level role/Ministry for Children overseeing the rights of children and families and supported by the four Children's Commissioners.**
- 5. Coherent implementation of the UNCRC across all government departments with Child Rights and Wellbeing IMPACT Assessments for all new policies**
- 6. A new long-term (10-15 year) national funding strategy that:**
  - a) acknowledges the crucial importance and economic imperative of healthy child development
  - b) acknowledges the vital role of parents and families and seeks to develop a fully integrated system of Early Years Care and Education that has the best interests of children and families at its heart.
  - c) seeks to achieve a high quality, emotionally mature and predominantly graduate-level workforce that is appropriately remunerated and valued
- 7. Systems of assessment and accountability that:**
  - a) suitably take into account pupil age, socio-economic background, special educational needs and English as an additional language
  - b) balance the cultivation of self regulation, executive functioning, positive learning dispositions, social competencies and personal resilience with the acquisition of practical and theoretical knowledge and skills
  - c) promote and support high quality practice that encourages multi-faceted development and learning in all areas – not just the core subjects
  - d) define quality in line with the best international practice and evidence and based on acknowledged developmental stages