Dear Parent,

We are delighted that our government is finally investing in early childhood education and care to make it more affordable for your family. The ‘free pre-school scheme’ is a welcome initiative and means that all children over 2yrs 8mths can avail of this service irrespective of family income.

However, the level of capitation provided by the government is insufficient to cover the cost of delivering this scheme. Our overheads continue to rise – insurance, mortgage/rent, utilities, resources, etc. Increased regulation results in a higher quality of service but this comes at a financial cost that the government fails to meet.

We find it increasingly difficult to give our staff a pay rise because our sole income comes from the government. These staff have increasing levels of qualification and professional responsibilities but due to lack of government investment we cannot afford to pay them what they are worth. As time passes we will find it impossible to retain our great staff because they are not earning a living wage in this profession and need to ‘sign on’ each summer. These staff do an amazing job supporting the education and development of your young child and we cannot afford to lose them from this profession.

We need you to join with us on Friday 27th October to put a stop to the exploitation of our early childhood education and care workforce.

With your support we will be closing our service at x o’clock to participate in a national protest that lets the government know that we are providing a vital public service that must be funded appropriately so that it is of high quality for children, provides a professional wage for early years teachers and is sustainable for providers.

Thanking you in advance for supporting this action