



Fair Pay Campaign takes to the streets of Cork, Dublin and Sligo on Saturday 6th June

Dear Early Childhood Practitioner,

Are you struggling to make a living in your chosen profession?

Are you an owner-practitioner who cannot afford to take a reasonable wage after paying the high costs associated with providing a quality early childhood education and care service? Do you find that you are spending an increasing amount of time engaged in unpaid, administrative tasks at the behest of one government department or another? Are you able to afford a pension?

Are you an employee-practitioner who loves the work you do but find that you can no longer afford to continue in your profession 'for the love of the children'? Are you 'signing on' for the summer months or are your hours reduced because many children are off? Are you earning little more than minimum wage?

Do you believe that you are a professional who is entitled to wages and conditions that are appropriate for your level of qualification, experience and responsibility?

Early childhood education and care is a vital public service, on par with primary education, yet it is not accorded the same respect and level of investment. Unless we take a stand for our profession we will never achieve 'dignity at work' as described by Minister Nash. We need to convince our finance ministers of the value of early childhood education and care so that substantial investment will be made to ensure that all children, from birth to six years, benefit from high quality early childhood education and care and that all Early Childhood Practitioners have pay and conditions that are commensurate with their role as a professional.

Join our Fair Pay Campaign on Saturday 6th June when we take to the streets of **Cork, Dublin and Sligo** in a bid to keep the spotlight on the inadequate pay and conditions within our profession. We know that parents cannot afford to pay the true cost of high quality early childhood education and care, but neither can we continue subsidising this cost by virtue of our low wages. We need to stand together to convince this government to accept its responsibility in relation to adequately funding this public service.

Register your attendance at the Connaught/Ulster, Leinster or Munster rally and share this message with your colleagues so that we can send a strong, united message to our government. For further details go to our website <http://www.acpireland.com/fair-pay-campaign.html>

Together we can make a difference.

Regards,

Marian Quinn
Chairperson