

'Childcare' - Business or Profession?

"Child care is a profession... I do not like to see this referred to as a business, a sector or an industry. Unfortunately for some, that is what it has turned into."

An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D.

Speaking in the Dáil on 29th May 2013.

09.00 – 09.30 **Registration**

Opening Session

09.30

Welcome

Tony Crooks
Chairperson, Start Strong

09.45

Opening Address

Dr. James Reilly, T.D.
Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

Session 2: 'Childcare' – Business or Profession?

How to ensure quality within a market system of early care and education

10.00

'Childcare': Business or Profession?

Ciairín de Buis
Director, Start Strong

10.15

Keynote Address

How to ensure quality within a market system of early care and education,
Learning from International Experience
Professor Helen Penn
International Centre for the Study of Mixed Economy Childcare, University of East London

11.00

Coffee Break

Session 3: Ireland's Early Years: A Market Model?

11.30

Ireland's Market Model

Toby Wolfe
Policy and Research Officer, Start Strong

11.45

Ireland's Early Years Policies: Past and Future

Professor Nóirín Hayes
School of Education, Trinity College Dublin

12.15

Questions and Answers Panel Discussion

Professor Helen Penn, ICMEC, University of East London
Professor Nóirín Hayes, School of Education, Trinity College Dublin
Ciairín de Buis, Director, Start Strong

13.00

Lunch



"It is also important to understand that the nature of inspections must change. As the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs has pointed out, the emphasis must be on quality and on a much broader spectrum than merely checking the environment that applies to items such as light switches or water or the general facilities. This is about the child and should be child-centred in that sense."

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Session 4: Quality Now and in the Future

14.00	Tusla's role as a Regulator in the Early Years Sector: Now and in the Future Brian Lee Director of Quality Assurance, Tusla, Child and Family Agency
14.20	A Focus on Learning in Early Years Services: The Quality Assurance and Support role of the Inspectorate of the Department of Education and Skills Gary Ó Donnchadha Deputy Chief Inspector, Department of Education and Skills
14.40	Clarification: Questions & Answers Brian Lee, Tusla Gary Ó Donnchadha & Pádraig MacFhlannchadha, Department of Education and Skills
15.00	Better Start - National Early Years Quality Development Margaret Rogers National Manager, National Early Years Quality Support Service
15.20	A New Approach: Panel Discussion Brian Lee, Tusla Gary Ó Donnchadha & Pádraig MacFhlannchadha, Department of Education and Skills Margaret Rogers, National Manager, National Early Years Quality Support Service
15.45	Closing Address Jan O'Sullivan, T.D. Minister for Education and Skills
16.00	Conference Close

