Dear Member of Parliament,

I am writing to you today to urge you to take up the cause of the Early Years Education sector.

We were deemed by government to be so essential that when other phases of education closed to protect staff and students from the risk of covid, we were told to stay fully open.

However, it seems we were not essential enough to be funded adequately. In fact, 25% of private, voluntary, and independent (PVI) nurseries fear that they may have to close permanently due to funding shortages and 3 (out of only 398) state-maintained nursery schools are currently in the process of permanent closure, with many more dangerously in deficit.

To lose even a part of the sector is a tragedy for future generations. High quality nursery education provides children the best start in life, allowing highly skilled specialists to run early intervention for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Across the country, Maintained Nursery Schools support TWICE the percentage of children with SEND. Providing families in deprived neighbourhoods with support and helping them into work as well as providing babies and very young children with a developmentally appropriate curriculum during the period of their life when they are learning the fastest and most profoundly.

The Early Years funding model is broken. It needs a new commitment to truly ‘level up’ the communities hardest hit by covid and austerity. Young children now do not remember a time before Covid. They deserve truly excellent play-based learning now, even more than ever.

Add your voice to our calls to #FundEarlyYears #SaveOur Nurseries on our Day of Action on Wednesday 24th March 2021 and beyond.

I look forward to hearing your response,

Yours,