



LONDON INSTITUTE
OF EARLY YEARS



London OBC

April 2025

June O'Sullivan OBE



Agenda

4:00 PM **Welcome and update from June O'Sullivan**

4:30 PM **Update from Ofsted Representatives**

5:30 PM **Q&A**

6:00 PM **Close**

This Meeting will be recorded so we can share it across our platforms.

The Current Situation in the Sector

1. Ofsted Consultation
2. Changes to funding rules following the legal challenge in Bournemouth
3. School Nurseries: How will they be inspected?
4. EYTDA, September 2026 (Ratio questions)
5. Climate Action Plans
6. Research and Reports
 - Save the Children Report
 - LEYF and Westminster Foundation initial findings

National and International Reports

Toddlers, Tech and Talk" Study (November 2024): Conducted by Manchester Metropolitan University and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, this two-year study explored the impact of digital technology on children aged zero to three. It concluded that, despite concerns about overexposure, digital technology can offer significant benefits for young children's language development and cognitive skills.

The Childcare Challenge: How can the new government deliver a real early education and childcare guarantee? It was published by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) and Save the Children in December 2024. The study revealed that only 36% of the poorest fifth of parents with young children utilise formal childcare, compared to 73% of the highest-earning families. Additionally, professionals are more likely to use formal childcare than those in lower-wage jobs. The report emphasized that expanding free childcare might not meet the needs of poorer families without a shift in delivery approach. Significant regional disparities exist, with deprived and rural areas having fewer and lower-quality childcare options. Recommendations included establishing not-for-profit nursery trusts, empowering local authorities to secure new childcare services, monthly payments for childminders, and increased funding for deprived areas and children with special educational needs.

Kindred Squared School Readiness Survey (January 2025): An annual survey by the early education charitable foundation Kindred Squared, involving over 1,000 teachers and 1,000 parents of reception-aged children in England and Wales. It revealed discrepancies between parental perceptions and teachers' assessments of children's readiness for school, with concerns about developmental delays attributed to factors like excessive screen time.

Eurydice Report on Early Childhood Education and Care (February 2025): This comprehensive report by the European Commission's education network examined ECEC across 37 European countries. It highlighted that Ireland has some of the highest childcare fees in Europe and spends only 0.14% of its GDP on ECEC, compared to the EU-27 average of 0.71%. The report called for improved investment and regulation in the sector.

Centre for Young Lives report - systemic change needed to save Early Years (2025) The report attributes this shortfall to funding cuts since 2010, which have diminished support services for children and families. Notably, nearly half of local authorities reported further budget reductions for children's centres and Family Hubs between 2023/24 and 2024/25. To address these issues, the report recommends increased investment in early childhood education programs, particularly in disadvantaged areas, and emphasizes the need for a phased scaling up of investment to improve children's development outcomes

Update from Ofsted Representatives



Q&A

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