



2024-0021245

**The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education**

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Ms Tamora Langley
Head of Policy & Communications,
Parent-Infant Foundation
By email: tamora@parentinfantfoundation.org.uk

| August 2024

Dear Tamora,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 July, in which you and your cosignatories kindly offered congratulations on my recent appointment to the Department for Education. It is the honour of my life to serve, and I will work hard to deliver the changes we need. Please can you share this response with your cosignatories.

Opportunity must be for all – and not just for the privileged few. I firmly believe that every child and young person should know that success can belong to them, and that is why we must break down all barriers to opportunity. This includes focusing on high and rising standards in education, so everyone can enjoy the best start in life.

As you will appreciate, the ministerial team is currently working with departmental officials on plans to deliver our manifesto commitments and put education back at the forefront of national life. Our aim is to deliver better life chances for all, through a system which works for all. We have already begun the process of resetting our relationship with our workforces – our excellent teachers and school staff, early years educators, social workers, those in our colleges and universities – to ensure there are no limits on the ambitions of young people.

I would like to extend my thanks for the critical work you and your members undertake to advocate for babies' emotional wellbeing and development.

I completely understand your concerns about the future funding of the Start for Life and Family Hubs programme, and I thank you for sharing them with me. I recognise the context that local authorities are currently operating within and will share more on how this government will continue to support babies and their families as soon as I am able to.

I look forward to us working together and hearing more about your Manifesto for Babies and thoughts on the value of the Family Hubs & Start for Life programme.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and I am grateful for your kind invitation to meet. My office is aware of your request, and if I am able to meet, they will be in touch to arrange a suitable time.

Best wishes,
Bridget

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