# NDNA template email/letter to Welsh Senedd candidates

Subject- **It’s time to get it right for early years and childcare**

Dear [Candidate] – (you can find the names and contact details of your local and regional candidates here <https://whocanivotefor.co.uk/>)

I am [job title] of [name of setting(s)] in [area/town/village]. We provide high quality early years education and care which gives children an excellent start in life while also supporting working families.

[You may want to add some information here about what you think makes your nursery/setting special]

I am contacting you to support National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) Cymru in its campaign for getting the right investment in early years and childcare for our youngest children. The early years of a child’s life are crucial to their long-term life chances. As we look to recover from the impact of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic it’s clear that a focus on this stage of a child’s life will be crucial.

The Coronavirus pandemic has been really challenging for families, children and settings like ours. We have faced extra costs to take measures to keep children and staff safe during the pandemic, at the same time there is still a lot of uncertainty about our future.

NDNA Cymru have worked with members like me to identify four urgent steps to get early years and childcare right for children, families and nurseries across Wales:

* The right funding for childcare places
* The right funding system - a single childcare account for families
* The right recognition for the value of the early years sector
* The right support with business rates

As our local candidate, I am asking if you will:

* Support local childcare businesses like mine by pledging to address funding and sustainability concerns through your work in the Senedd
* Show your support for early years settings like mine on social media using #GetItRightForEY
* Commit to raising funding reform with the next Welsh Government and making sure the system works for families and childcare providers
* Work in the Senedd to secure ongoing business rates relief for nurseries so we can focus on what matters – investing in the delivery of high quality education and care for children.

Research shows that high quality early education gives all children the best start in life, helps to reduce the attainment gap and boosts social mobility. But to achieve this, we need to be able to invest in our staff training and resources for our nursery/setting.

Nurseries/settings like mine are operating full-time - often 7am – 7pm, 50 weeks a year - offering vital early learning and childcare that is critical for allowing families, parents and carers to return to work. My own parents have been clear about how important this has been to them. [You may want to include more information here about how you have supported parents and children during lockdowns or remotely] Childcare places will be essential for any economic recovery.

I really hope you will be able to speak up for nurseries/settings like mine and the children and families across [constituency] who rely on us to provide a safe and stimulating environment for their children so they can get into, or remain in employment. If you aren’t able to do any of the actions above but would like to support us in other ways, please let me know what you will be able to do as your support would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,