

Ministear airson Òigridh agus Clann  
Minister for Children and Young People

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Stewart Maxwell MSP  
Convener Education and Culture Committee



Ur faidhle/Your ref:  
Ar faidhle/Our ref:

8 January 2014

Dear Stewart,

Further to yesterday's announcement on expanding eligibility for early learning and childcare to 2 year olds from workless households in August 2014, estimated at around 15% (8,400) of 2 year olds, I wanted to clarify that the intention is to do this through secondary legislation.

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill was designed to allow expansion of early learning and childcare provision through secondary legislation; and, the intention was made clear that this would apply to 3 and 4 year olds in the first instance, with further expansion when it was affordable and sustainable. The confirmation of consequential funding in December has enabled us to make this initial additional expansion.

Eligibility for 600 hours of early learning and childcare for 2 year olds who are looked after or under a kinship care order are set out on the face of the Bill as we wanted to signal early our very clear intentions to cover those most vulnerable 2 year olds; and, to make alternative provisions for those looked after 2 year olds in terms of their wellbeing needs (as currently set out in section 45).

The flexibility of using secondary legislation means that the subsequent expansion to 27% of 2 year olds could also be carried out this way.

We will engage closely with stakeholders through out this process.

*best wishes*  
*Aileen*  
**AILEEN CAMPBELL**