

SUBMISSION

Reference: Council's involvement in three early learning centres.

I do NOT wish to discuss my submission at the hearing and ask that this written submission be considered.

I am completing this submission for myself

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Date: 14th of April 2009

I am writing to register that my preferred option in regards to the statement of proposal for the future of the council's involvement in three early learning centres is to maintain the status quo with all three centres.

Thank you to the council for supporting early childhood education and the future for children and our society to date. In supporting quality early childhood education you support with vision the future of Christchurch.

I have been privileged to visit two of your centres within the last six months and I would like to congratulate council and all involved in the administration of the centres for the high quality environments that you support.

My experience within your two centres was the observation of high quality interactions between teachers; teachers and children; parents and teachers, with these interactions then supporting high quality relationships. I experienced environments where children were supported in functioning in the higher areas of their brains, the limbic system and cortex. Children and adults functioning at this level are creative thinkers, emotionally and socially intelligent, have social consciences, have high self-esteem are confident and empowered, they are positive contributors to the communities in which they live, play and work.

The findings of neuroscience support the quality of interactions that a child has in early childhood.

A city can have the best infrastructure in the world, however it is the relationships that create the foundation, without relationships based upon respect, compassion, honouring and valuing each other, it would be empty and devoid of humanity – the same could perhaps be said for children if they are not growing up in quality relationship with others, and children are quite literally our future.

In supporting the status quo I advocate for the children attending these centres as I can see that they are in settings which support the findings of neuroscience. I also advocate for the future of our society as this will be determined by the quality of relationships that these children contribute to our communities.

In adopting the status quo the council would be supporting most of the **Community outcomes which the community thinks are important for it's wellbeing as outlined on page 44 in the Draft Community Development Strategy.**

The council would also be supporting their current early childhood education strategy and I would like to quote from this document,

' Many of the benefits of quality childcare/early childhood education services accrue to the community or larger society; they are, in part at least, collective benefits. If self-reliant families, a healthy, proficient citizenry and cohesive, strong communities are desirable features of a society, and high quality child care contributes to their formation and maintenance, then the larger society gains. Provision of these services is in the public interest, it is appropriate to treat public expenditures for childcare as a public investment, not merely as a public cost, and to create public policy to do it effectively. (Friendly, 2000)'

In adopting the status quo the council would be supporting children as contributors to our future society and economy. As adults within society surely we all have a responsibility to nurture and support higher level brain function to support children to become empowered, creative thinking citizens of the future.

In a report prepared by UNICEF for the United Nations in September 2001 from the World Summit for Children they stated, 'Here at the start of the 21st century we know that we can build a world fit for children. We possess the understanding, the experience, the normative framework, the communications capacity and the technical know-how. And in this \$30 trillion global economy no one can say that we lack resources. Thus, it is no longer a question of what is possible, but of what is given priority. **Those who have the responsibility and resources to act may find other issues vying for their attention – but there is no issue more vital to humanity and its future than the survival and full development of our children.'**

I hope that the Christchurch City Council continues to support early childhood through continuing to provide quality education and care within it's three centres and perhaps become seen as a leader in New Zealand within local governments because of this continued support.