

# Cross-Party Group on Families Supporting Children's Learning

Tues 1 October 2024, 6pm to 7.30pm

Chair: Oliver Mundell MSP

## Agenda

Welcome and introductions

Minutes of previous meeting

AGM

Presentation - **UPSTART SCOTLAND - the case for raising the school starting age and providing what the under-sevens *really* need**

A presentation on the kindergarten stage by Willie French, chair of Upstart Scotland, followed by questions and discussion.

*In recent years, there has been a drive to 'schoolify' in the early and pre-school years. This model of schoolifying has presented damage to children, but furthermore, to society in a wider context. Those employed in education are unsure how the human mind develops and why early years aged children learn differently from older children. Modern life can damage healthy development and a play-based kindergarten could avoid and address these issues. Recent high value aspirations have been to raise attainment and narrow the gap. Formal schooling widens the gap between rich, poor and genders. A kindergarten approach could reduce all kinds of inequality. Constituent parts of our ongoing campaign would campaign for dropping SNSA assessment of P.1 children and every setting planning and implementing 'Realising the Ambition' publication.*

**Scottish Assembly of Parents and Carers**

Gavin Yates of Connect will give a short introduction on the Scottish Assembly of Parents and Carers.

Future work

Any other business