

2 year olds receiving an 'education'

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Following the government's announcement that there will be nursery places for all 2-year-olds, I am interested in what my constituents think about education for toddlers.

One pre-school nursery tells me that they are having difficulty in providing the required curriculum and " performance indicators " needed for the under 3's that they have at the moment.

She said that there will be 69 'attainment' figures to reach. Each time the government shifts the goal posts it costs this pre-school money to re-print materials, re-train and buy additional equipment, all funded by the school with no central government money. Look at what happened to Cuddles nursery in Gravesend.

Whilst it is admirable that more nursery places are being sought to allow parents to seek work, I worry about the jobs being created by this increased nursery culture. I also worry about the children this involves. There are less of the traditional methods of care such as child-minding as the overly bureaucratic state has interfered so much that there are now fewer childminders. Childminders provided a home environment rather than the nursery teacher who calls providing 'attainment outcomes' for 2-year-olds a 'baby minding factory' when all the little ones want is security, a cuddle, a few bricks to play with and a paint brush.

