

## Notes for Early Childhood Forum Meeting June 8 2018

### 2ND AGENDA ITEM: BASELINE ASSESSMENT

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reception-baseline-assessment>)

Melian (CHAIR)- any comments? what are your organisations doing? any particular activism?

-The proposed Baseline Assessment is not really about the individual child or about the school a total waste of money being paid to the NFER - £10 million.

- is anyone looking at this with Open Government? (<https://www.opengovernment.org.uk/networks/uk/>)
- -More than 740 academics have signed the campaign 'More than a score'. (<https://morethanascore.org.uk/about/>) PLEASE SIGN UP TO THIS CAMPAIGN. Films are being made and shared on social media. They are wanting to engage parents. The Times Education Supplement has covered this well.
- at the last Council meeting of the National Association of Headteachers, they were not condemning the baseline proposal, they want a measure but feel this is not the right measure, an adult administering a language based 15 minute assessment on an ipad in the first weeks of reception. They are not going to get what they think they will putting in 20 hours in a 30 child Reception class.
- -the bigger picture is not understanding early years child development. PLEASE ASK YOUR SCHOOLS TO WRITE TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HEADTEACHER'S COUNCIL, SHARING YOUR CONCERNS.
- Early Education Campaign (see <https://www.early-education.org.uk/no-baseline-assessment>)

### 3RD AGENDA ITEM NURSERY SCHOOLS APPG

This APPG has been meeting regularly for two years and organised by Early Education (represented by Beatrice Merrick at the Early Childhood Forums.) Generally 8 or 9 MP's attend. They are looking at a number of issues, including baseline assessments and 30 hours funding. Beatrice was not present so there was no formal report.

Comments:

-The National Association of Headteachers representative Fiona Deer said it is estimated 400 nurseries have closed due to funding issues.

-Another participant reported that 27 nurseries have closed in Birmingham and 12 have decided to bundle together to create a federation as a way of coping with funding difficulties

(Post meeting: The latest Nursery Schools APPG MEETING SUMMARY - (<https://www.early-education.org.uk/sites/default/files/APPG%20NSNRC%20Summary%204%20July%202018.pdf>) \*\*\*Very interesting - heartening reading!