



2018-0026637NZPO

**Nadhim Zahawi MP**

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

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24<sup>th</sup> June 2018

*Dear James,*

Thank you for your letter of 13 June, about the Early Years Workforce Strategy and your proposals to encourage recruitment to the early years workforce.

I know that a well-qualified early years workforce is crucial to children's outcomes in their later education and life chances. We recognise that specialist early years graduates can bring valuable skills and knowledge to the sector. We are committed to supporting the ambitions of those that want to progress to graduate-level early years qualifications.

As you know, one of the commitments in the workforce strategy is to improve early years careers advice. To address this, we are working with an expert group to develop an early years careers progression map. The map will also include entry routes into the profession and will be available over the summer period.

With the ambitions set out in the social mobility strategy, our focus is on supporting professional development activity that strengthens pedagogy and practice in the early years workforce. We are currently considering a range of approaches to early years workforce quality, including specialist graduates.

Thank you again for writing to me on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Nadhim Zahawi MP**  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families