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

Chapter 1: **HOW DID WE GET HERE?**

Why school starts so early in English-speaking nations, how politicians are now

'schoolifying' the pre-school years and why this is damaging for children and society

Chapter 2: **HOW CHILDREN LEARN**

How the human mind develops, why young children learn differently from older ones

and what adults can do to help them

Chapter 3: **TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY CHILDHOOD**

How modern lifestyles are undermining children's mental and physical health … and

how a play-based kindergarten stage could help put things right

Chapter 4: **THE THREE RS**

Why literacy and numeracy are still the bedrock of education, how children acquire

the underpinning skills and why early schoolification is counter-productive.

Chapter 5: **MIND THE GAPS**

Why early formal schooling widens gap between rich and poor, how it also contributes

to the gender gap and how an effective kindergarten stage could reduce inequality of

every kind

Chapter 6: **FINNISH FOUNDATIONS**

Why Finland lets children play till they're seven, how this has contributed to the

country's educational success… and how it also helps make a 'good society'

Chapter 7: **CHANGING MINDS TO CHANGE THE FUTURE**

Why this book was written, why early-start countries must change their attitude to

early childhood, and to the professionals who care for them, how such a culture

change can happen ... and why it must start soon!

Appendices**:**

1 School starting ages worldwide

2 Early education in early-start nations

3 Early Years Forum *Charter for Childhood*

4 The sound-symbol system of the English language

5 'Summerborn' children

6 Lesson for Linguistic Skills

Notes and References