Dear Member of the Scottish Parliament,

**Please sign motion S6M-11999, for a conversation about a Kindergarten Stage for Scotland**

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Lesley Young and I am a resident of your Renfrewshire constituency. I am writing to express my strong support for motion number S6M-11999 in the name of Kaukab Stewart MSP, calling for a National Conversation on a Kindergarten Stage for Scotland and am calling on you to support this motion.

As a member of Upstart and ex Primary and Nursery Teacher I am passionate about a Kindergarten stage for Scotland’s Children. I can tell you how every year I would have parents upset and wishing they had given their child additional time in nursery but had instead sent their child to school at 4. These parents now wanted their child to have a repeat year or wishing to delay starting High School as they were not coping developmentally, emotionally and educationally. Not once did I ever have a parent who regretted giving them extra time in nursery to allow them to mature and flourish.

Scotland has one of the lowest school-start ages when compared to other nations in Europe. All evidence and research points to better results for children in both their emotional and cognitive development as well as increased attainment with a more play-focused and age-appropriate approach to early years education.  Countries that use a kindergarten model or similar historically report better results on international PISA comparisons, and children benefit from the space to grow naturally in their cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development.

While there will be obvious concerns around not least funding I would like to point out that all children from the age of 3 currently receive 1140 hours which as you will be aware is the equivalent to the school year. Therefore the actual allocation will not change just the delivery method of these hours until the child reaches the end of Kindergarten and the start of formal schooling. Countries that have adopted this approach spend far less in later years of education on those children who are struggling and require interventions. In the long term this would then be a saving from the education budget.

It’s time for a national conversation on early years education, focusing on the potential benefits of a kindergarten stage and ensuring that as the government likes to say “Scotland is the best place for children to grow up” and this is not just a tagline.  Please sign the motion, which has been marked for a Members’ Business Debate, and get involved in the discussion.

[**Click here to read the full text of the motion.**](https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-11999)

Yours sincerely,