



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament



Education and childcare for disabled children and young people

What we found out

Who we are and what we do



We are the **Children and Young People Education Committee.**



We are a group of people in the **Welsh Parliament.**



We have been finding out what children, young people and their families think about **childcare** and **education** in Wales.



We learned about what children, young people and families find hard. We decided what needs to change.

What we wanted to find out



This booklet tells you about the things we found out.



We looked at what children and young people in Wales need.

Especially those who have



- **Physical disabilities**

For example, problems with walking, standing, or controlling your muscles.



- **Sensory disabilities**

For example, problems with seeing or hearing things.



- **Learning needs**

This means finding it difficult to learn or understand information.

This could be because of things like dyslexia or dyscalculia.



Learning disability can be caused by conditions like Down's Syndrome.



- **Neurodiversity**

Autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, or **ADHD**, are types of neurodiversity.

It describes people who think and understand information differently.



We found out about the experiences of children aged **0 years** up to **16 years** old.

We wanted to find out



- what is happening across Wales
- what needs to change
- what needs to get better

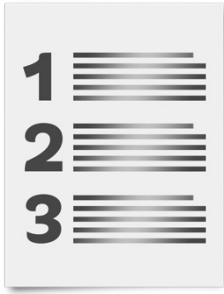


The Committee cannot make any of the changes themselves.



The Welsh Government will read and talk about our recommendations, then decide what to do.

How we found things out



We made a list of things we wanted to find out. We collected information in different ways. For example:



- we talked to children, young people and families about their experiences



- we visited nurseries and schools

- we asked people to send us their views



- people from organisations talked to the committee

What happens to the information



We asked Welsh Government Ministers about how they are making things better.



We wrote a report about the things we found out. We made recommendations.



The Welsh Government will reply to our recommendations. They will say whether they will do them or not.



Then members of the Senedd will talk about the report and the Government's response. This is called a **debate**.



Things we found out

We had 32 ideas, or **recommendations**, about things that need to change.



We also wrote 5 conclusions.

They are about the things we found out.

Conclusion 1

All children and young people have the right to an education.



But we found out that many children and young people in Wales are **not** getting a good education.



These children and young people are being let down.

Conclusion 2

Not getting good education harms

- how children and young people feel – their emotions
- their mental health
- their physical health
- their ability to work and make choices as adults



Conclusion 3

Not getting good education also affects

- parents and carers
- brothers and sisters
- the local community



Some parents have to stop work or work less. This means that families have less money.

Conclusion 4



Some childcare services and schools are **inclusive**. They welcome and support **all** children and young people.



But in some parts of Wales, children and young people with **learning needs** and **disabilities** are not included very well.

Conclusion 5



The reasons for some children and young people not getting good childcare and education are complicated.

They include:

- people's knowledge and opinions about disability and learning needs.
- practical things, like transport, buildings and information.



Finding childcare



Some families cannot find childcare.
It is harder to find childcare for disabled children.



Families struggle to find childcare for before and after school and in school holidays.



This means that some parents cannot work. This affects things like their mental health and how much money they have.



The committee thinks that the Government and local councils need to do more to solve these problems.

Getting good education



It is hard for some children and young people to get a good education.

We found out about some of the reasons.



- Schools and councils don't have enough money to give children the support they need.



- Some people don't understand disability and learning needs.
- Some children and young people in school cannot access some classes, buildings, transport, trips and sports.



- Some children are bullied because they are disabled. This is very bad for their mental health.

Getting good information



It is difficult to find good information about services and support.



Information must be

- easy to find



- all in one place

- clear



- available in different formats