

The government must ensure their spending on childcare goes towards high quality early years education – Tracy Brabin

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Brabin MP, Labour's Shadow Early Years Minister,

commenting on the NAHT report on school readiness, said:

“This report should make sobering reading for Tory ministers. It is yet more evidence of a problem that has worsened on their watch. It is now incumbent on the government to ensure their spending on childcare goes towards high quality early years education, supporting children to get the best start in life.

“By contrast, the Tories' chronically underfunded 30-free hour childcare offer has not only left too many parents not receiving the free care they were promised but has seen many of the most experienced and highest-rated providers walk away from the sector entirely. Ministers should take their concerns seriously before the childcare sector reaches a crisis point.

“A Labour government would provide genuinely free and high-quality childcare, with all parents of 2-4 year olds entitled to 30 hours, and the investment needed to deliver it in practice. We would also reverse the Tory cuts to Sure Start, which the evidence showed was a highly effective programme in supporting children to be school ready.”