

## Parents thoughts and comments on

### July Provision

*All children with Down syndrome and indeed all intellectual disabilities need to be given the option to attend July provision whether it is provided at home or in school. The summer holidays are long and children with intellectual disabilities need structure and routine. (Aisling - Kildare)*

*It took Cian until the end of October to get back to the same place he was with his educational routine, before the summer holidays. As such, July provision will increase the time Cian has with learning. Helping him keep up with the rest of his class and not fall behind. (Alan - Dublin)*

*July provision would allow pre learning support to be introduced prior to the new school year while also recapping on areas from the previous year. (Bernie – Louth)*

*July provision would be a great help to my child in many ways. At the moment she is in post primary school. She is off school for 3 months and has absolutely no support for those months. There are many things she could be learning if she had July provision. (Angela – Mayo)*

*Please don't turn your back on Ireland's most vulnerable. Stop using mild, moderate, severe and profound as a tool to discriminate. Open July provision up to every child with Down syndrome. Help educate every child. (Carol – Westmeath)*

*July provision is not necessary for Sarah, it is critical. She needs it; this is not optional it is a necessity. Last summer, once again although money is not plentiful, I paid a teacher to provide summer tuition for Sarah for an hour a day 3 days per week. This small input helped her remain in touch with what she had learned in school. (Emma – Donegal)*

*It takes him a lot of time to get back into his school routine but being off for the summer from June to September is such a long time. When September comes, it can be so hard to get a child back into learning. I think if my son had July in a school or with teacher lead activities, I feel it would make a huge difference to his routine. (Gillian – Cork)*

*All children with Down syndrome and indeed all intellectual disabilities need to be given the option to attend July provision whether it is provided at home or in school. The summer holidays are long and children with intellectual disabilities need structure and routine. (Derbhile – Meath)*

*The summer school break can be too long for children with Down syndrome as they can regress and loose some of their educational skills learned over the academic year. They need their educational routine to continue in a structured format over the summer period to keep their skills. (Vanessa – Waterford)*

*July provision, I believe will be a key support for Ruth in her educational career. However sadly from what I know this is not available to the vast majority of children with Down syndrome, leaving them at an educational disadvantage. As things stand now, this will put Ruth on the back foot straight away as she heads along her primary school journey. (Marie – Limerick)*

## Parents thoughts and comments on

### IEP Provision

*We all know without an IEP our students would miss out on what they need to learn to move on and cope with systems in school and life out of school. It is a necessity and very insulting to suggest this be changed, as if it is a luxury to our students. It is a vital part of planning for our young people's education, without their IEP they will fall between the cracks in the system which will stop them reaching their full potential. Ministers, Teachers unions, Teachers, Parents and SNA's should all have the same vision for our young people. Let's have a fair and supportive education to bring each person to their full potential.* (Ursula – Meath)

*It is unethical to use the most vulnerable students in a school as a pawn in a teacher's dispute; particularly that many of our students don't have an adequate level of support, even with an IEP in place. Agree that true inclusion of students with disabilities in education, needs to be resourced, as it otherwise creates a negative culture towards people with disabilities. Currently, second level teachers are not provided with adequate and appropriate professional development to meet the needs of students with disabilities. In the longer term, if students with disabilities are not provided with adequate and appropriate educational provision in schools, they will be a burden to state funds, rather than an asset to the state and economy, when leaving school.* (Lucy – Dublin)

*We believe it is essential that IEP continues into post Primary as it is imperative for our son's (and his fellow peers) continued development in his education and for his self-belief and growth. The benefit he receives from his current primary school is clearly evident to us and to my son himself.* (Fergal & Clare – Limerick)

*I feel that IEP's are vital for all our kids. Having an IEP reduces stress and work load on our kids. When a proper IEP is in place our kids are given achievable targets and they can see that they are achieving these. Without IEP's our kids would be totally lost in following the curriculum in school. When proper IEP's are in place, school life is a much easier environment for our kids to be engaged in. Children with Down syndrome deserve every opportunity to learn and achieve their full potential.* (Anne – Offaly)

*IEPs give focus and aid the students in gaining achievements with confidence and independence at their level.* (Gina – Donegal)

*The IEP is the heart and soul of the education for a student with 'special' educational needs. Without an appropriate focused IEP it is impossible for anyone involved in the education of a child with a 'special' need to know if the interventions put in place are working. There may be education in a so called 'special' setting but it is not, and cannot be, 'special' education. So important is the IEP that it can be stated with certainty that where there is no IEP for a child receiving special education, there is no special education.* (Sorcha – Galway)