



@ECEVoice

Conversation guide

Every child is worth it - Every teacher is worth it

Wondering where to start? Here are some key points for having conversations, writing social media posts and encouraging others to show their support for early childhood teachers.

- Aotearoa should be the best place in the world to raise our children.
- The early years play a key role in children's brain development and early childhood education (ECE) teachers greet children at the beginning of a lifelong education journey.
- The future of our children's physical, cognitive, emotional and social development is deeply affected by their early experiences.
- At the heart of their experiences are the relationships they form with their parents, their first teachers and their ECE settings.
- Right now, there's a crisis in early childhood education. Low pay and underfunding mean thousands of teachers are leaving the profession every year. There's now a critical shortage of qualified ECE teachers.
- Despite being just as qualified, ECE teachers are paid up to 52% less than their colleagues in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools.
- ECE teachers are asking the government to urgently invest in our youngest children. We urgently need to fix the pay gap and fund services to provide quality care and education.
- The government needs to fund the sector better as parents need access to affordable, quality ECE.
- Investing in ECE is the best investment we can make to ensure the future success of Aotearoa. Our children are the future. Now is the time.
- Teachers support our communities, we're asking our communities to support teachers.
- You can support teachers by visiting [ECEVoice.org.nz](https://www.ecevoice.org.nz)
- Share your story about why you value ECE on Instagram (tag @ecevoice) or Facebook #ValueECE #FixtheGap