

Flying Start - How does it help families in disadvantaged areas?



BA Education Studies

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What is poverty?

Relative Poverty

- Essentially means that a person cannot afford an “ordinary living pattern”.
- If a household's income is below the median household income by 60%, it is in relative poverty.

Absolute Poverty

- More complicated than relative poverty. Usually used by international organisations.
- Unable to afford the basic human needs. For example, food, shelter or clothing.
- A measurement of poverty that continuous over time.

What is Flying Start?

Flying Start is a factor of the Welsh Government's early learning programme, and it was introduced to tackle poverty in disadvantaged areas in Wales.

Provides part-time childcare for parents with children that are aged 2-3 years old.

Designed for families with children under the age of four.

A form of childcare for families living in poverty across Wales, created to give children that live in catchment areas the best start in life.



What does it offer?

- Childcare for families living in poverty
- Consists of 2.5 hours of childcare per day
- A child can attend Flying Start five days a week, for 39 weeks
- Additional fifteen sessions during school holidays
- Easy transition into schooling due to foundation phase elements
- An enhanced Health Visiting service
- Access to parenting programmes

“In 2016-17 more than 37,600 children benefited from Flying Start services and we will continue to support as many families as possible through the programme.” (Welsh Government Spokesman, 2018)

Are there any concerns?

Flying Start have spent £600m on childcare for families living in disadvantaged areas of Wales, since 2007.

However families that may be struggling more so due to poverty, are unable to get the correct help they need from Flying Start, as they do not live the a Flying Start catchment area.

The children and young people's committee have brought this forward to the Welsh Government and questioned "whether the geographical focus of the Flying Start programme needs to be reconsidered in order to enable those most in need to access support". (2018).

Reference List

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