

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: Catharine Jennings
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Objection to Home Schooling Changes
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To Whom It May Concern,

As a concerned educator I am writing in relation to the proposed changes to the home education legislation.

I do not have my own children, however I have had the absolute privilege and pleasure to assist in the education of a number of children who are homeschooled. Some of these are in remote locations and had no access to mainstream schooling. There were other children who I worked with, who were to their own and societies disadvantage failed by mainstream schooling.

One particular example I would like to share is an 8 year old girl who could not read the book "In my heart: A book of feelings" by Jo Witek. Instantly I identified her as an incredibly bright girl, possessing an extremely inquisitive mind. When I started working with her I could see glimpses of this brightness and embers of a passion for learning. This passion had been dampened by the inability of traditional schooling to cater to her needs and teach her to read. Her numeracy skills also well behind those of her peers. Along with her parents, I worked to identify how best I could teach her a skill that every person has the right to know.

For four months, her parents and I worked to make learning fun, to help her recover her self-belief and relight her passion for learning. We learnt through play, through cooking, through working with animals on the farm, every aspect of life was turned into an opportunity to learn. This approach provided a success that exceeded my wildest expectations. Once I felt her skills were at an appropriate level I reintroduced the book, her ability to not only read it but express the different emotions and actively engage an audience was nothing short of incredible. This changed me as an educator and as a person moving forward. She read the book to her family that evening.

Her parents came to me the following day "What did you do?"

"Nothing, that's all "child's name".

With time and personal reflection, I see that the legislation and ability to teach her in her home environment allowed me to utilise my skillset to challenge and redirect her abilities and frame of mind. In short to provide an environment where she could thrive.

There is debate to the source there is no debating the quote.

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

All children are individuals with different skills, attributes and abilities some of which cannot be measured in a traditional sense. The proposed changes go directly against this train of thought. There are so many unique individuals who will lose their right to individuality and schooling that best allows them to thrive and reach their full potential.

I implore you to revisit the reason for these changes and consider the result for society if you take away these children's right to learning in a manner that best suits them.

Kind regards,

Catharine Jennings

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