

PRESS RELEASE

EDUCATION OTHERWISE SAYS THAT HOME EDUCATION IS A LIFELINE FOR MANY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

In light of the recent UNICEF report into children's wellbeing Fiona Nicholson, a Spokesperson for Education Otherwise, the charity which has been supporting home educating families for the past 30 years, points out that home education has proved a lifeline for thousands of children and young people.

Education Otherwise would like to endorse the view of the Children's Commissioner, Professor Sir Al Aynsley-Green who said he was not surprised by the report's findings.

"It's very much in line with what children and young people are telling me about their lives today, and I think the shocking conclusion is that as a nation we have been failing our children and young people."

These are the categories which were considered in the UNICEF report :

- **Material well-being**
- **Family and peer relationships**
- **Health and safety**
- **Behaviour and risks**
- **Own sense of well-being [educational]**
- **Own sense of well-being [subjective]**

"Home educating families put the wellbeing of our children first" comments Fiona Nicholson from Education Otherwise in Sheffield. **"But perhaps necessarily some of us have a different definition of "wellbeing" from the mainstream?"**

"Home educating parents give up a considerable part of family income and we make a huge time commitment over many years in order to give our children the best possible start in life"

Carole Rutherford (Sunderland) member of Education Otherwise who is home educating her own autistic son commented **'Many of us who are now home educating our Special Educational Needs Children are doing so because we are so concerned about their wellbeing and the system was clearly not meeting their needs. This report comes as no surprise to many of us'**

<http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/index.htm>

<http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/update.htm>

<http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/wellbeing.htm>

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