

10 June 2019

It's Fairer Funding Week this week, organised by the [Early Years Alliance](#). It's so important that we spread awareness of how the government are putting a huge amount of financial pressure on Early Years settings by not addressing the real costs of funding schemes like the 30 hours.

What better way to start the week than to introduce our wonderful Chair of our Committee, [Carole Cragg](#).

Carole talks here about how much Buddies has meant to her and her family:

Hi, my name is Carole. My family and I moved to Banwell 6 years ago now. Back then I had 2 small girls, knew no one and was a total stranger. My eldest started at Banwell Buddies in September 2013 and right away we became part of a family. I've always been quite a shy person but was determined to get to know people. I helped out at the bonfire night that year and subsequently got roped into joining the committee as treasurer because I was able to work out the correct change!

Well, like I said that was 6 years ago and those of you who know me now know that my 4th child is currently at buddies and I have now become Chair of the Committee. I've made some great friends as have the children who have loved going to Buddies, each from the age of 2 until transitioning to school. The staff and other committee members have always been so supportive and friendly, helping our family to become a firm part of the community.

My eldest daughter has ASD, and with the help of the staff I was able to start the process of getting the help we needed and she was given extra support to prepare her for school. They are so adaptive I can't speak more highly of the team. I couldn't imagine what it would be like without Buddies as a hub in our village.

Carole Cragg