

Hello Everyone,

I would like to share something with you that has been on my mind for some time, for those of my new found friends unfamiliar with the Special Educational Needs System (SEN) I will write a brief explanation.

There are a great many children with SEN/Disability being educated in our state schools. Whilst I believe in inclusion for all, there are areas within the SEN system that parents have lost confidence in. Many parents and carers feel that the SEN system does not work for their children at present, and myself hear on a regular basis of cases where parents of SEN children come home from school unable to cope with the school day, parents report their children having complete meltdowns as a direct result of insufficient provision and support which they so desperately need. I myself as a parent have experienced this with my own son and I believe this situation cannot carry on.

Could I encourage anyone with an interest in the SEN system to take a short while to answer an online questionnaire, see link below? This is a key part of the Lamb Inquiry (government inquiry chaired by Brian Lamb). Its recommendations about how to improve parental confidence in the SEN system will be submitted to the Secretary of State this coming September. Your views are very important.

The Secretary of State (Ed Balls) has written to Brian Lamb requesting advice on how to improve the SEN system, one of the areas in particular being Statements for children with SEN. We feel that this is our chance now to really get our ideas and issues heard, it is imperative that we fill in these questionnaires. Please pass the link onto everyone who you think may be interested as we need it to reach as many people as possible.

The closing date is 30 June and there are sections for parents, school staff, professionals, students - answer whichever you feel best describes you!

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/lambinquiry/evidence.shtml>

Come on my friends let us use the power of the net and create a Mexican wave online to help change the situation for our children.

Many thanks

Steve McGuinness