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## ~~60 social workers 'too few'~~

By BERYL COOK

SIXTY more social workers in secondary schools next year was too few and too late for suicidal students, the Pre-School Playgroups' Association said yesterday.

"Sixty social workers when the child is halfway there is too late," said Hongkong branch chairman, Mrs Amy Hughes.

"Preventive work starts before secondary school. It starts in kindergartens where there is a lot of parental involvement. It starts before the age of six."

Mr Patten announced that 60 more social workers would be placed in secondary schools next year. But teachers have expressed concern that the only boost for kindergartens was the introduction of fee-remission.

The Hongkong Professional Teachers Union vice-president, Mr Au Pak-yuen, said the whole concept of kindergarten education was outdated.