Training for work with young children in Europe

A comparative study of 22 European countries

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Charity Reg. No. 288965R

An OMEP publication
Training for work with young children in Europe.

A comparative study of 22 European countries

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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I should like to thank all those people in the twenty two countries who have helped to bring this project to a successful conclusion. In particular, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to those individuals who answered my many faxes and letters so that this investigation could be as complete as possible. A.C.
INTRODUCTION

The 'Right to Education' is one of the inalienable Rights of the Child and many world wide organisations, including OMEP (World Organisation for Early Childhood Education) are providing learning opportunities for children below school age.

Research has shown that early learning programmes can be one of the most important ways of influencing children's later development and that investment in good quality provision can have positive, long term benefits on children's successes in school, life and work.

Probably the most crucial factor in providing high quality programmes for young children is the level of training of the early childhood workers. Traditionally governments, individual politicians and others, in many countries have regarded provision for young children before they start school as the concern of the family. Any one can care for young children! As a result many working in this field are either untrained or poorly trained. There are few countries where both the level of training and the amount of provision are high.

Early childhood educators throughout the European region of OMEP have become increasingly concerned for the need to look carefully at the quality of provision we offer our children below statutory school age.

However, over the years at our annual European regional meetings we have become intensely aware that in discussing common issues and concerns there are difficulties in terminology and misunderstandings can arise as a result. For example, we in the UK talk happily about 'infant education' referring to children of school age between the ages of 5 and 7 years, whereas to our European colleagues infants are children below the age of 3 years.

Furthermore we believed that as our lives become daily more involved with our European colleagues that it is essential for us to have a greater understanding of how those working with children in the early years are trained and how their training compares in length, content and standard.

In OMEP, as each country is free to decide the region of the world to which they wish to belong, the countries which make up the European region include not only those traditionally seen as European but also Israel and Turkey. The region at present has 24 member states, although there will be new members in the near future. Information is available from 22 of these countries.

Hopefully this booklet which presents some up to date factual information on the variety of provision and training available in these 22 countries will help readers to understand the complexity of the early childhood situation in neighbouring states. Unfortunately there are a few gaps in the information from some countries, this is because I was unable to obtain all the necessary facts and figures in all instances.

As we look at the training that early years educators receive in different countries and the variety of provision available a picture emerges of a vast array of services and with it some understanding of how young children are perceived in the society.

The booklet has been laid out in an easy format so that readers can see at a
glance the types of provision, the responsible ministries and the training of the various early childhood workers. In the original questionnaire, countries were asked about any future developments, but this has not been included as so few respondents answered this section.

Readers may wonder why there has been no mention of the amount of provision available in each country, but this evidence has been intentionally omitted as not only are such statistics frequently out of date by the time they reach print, but there are many problems associated with cross national tables as Peter Moss pointed out in the recent RSA document (1994).

AGE of STARTING COMPULSORY SCHOOLING

The age at which children start compulsory schooling varies from country to country. Of the countries listed here the UK alone demands that children enter primary school in the term after their fifth birthday, although Greece requires attendance from 5.5 years and the new law in Hungary makes it compulsory for children to attend kindergarten for the year before entering school. Most countries have a starting age of 6 for compulsory schooling although the Scandinavian states and some of those from Eastern Europe defer attendance until the age of seven years. The table below shows the relevant ages in each of the 22 countries.

AGE OF COMMENCEMENT OF COMPULSORY SCHOOLING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5.0yrs</th>
<th>5.5yrs</th>
<th>6.0yrs</th>
<th>7.0yrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Czech</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hungary*</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Israel*</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Slovak</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* One year of Kindergarten before school.

In some countries, like Denmark, Sweden and the UK there is a trend for children to be offered early entrance into primary school - a trend which disturbs many early childhood educators as they do not feel that the staff in primary schools are appropriately prepared to educate such young children. However there are some 'transition' programmes, like those started in Copenhagen where pre-school and primary teachers work together with beneficial effects for children.

This variation naturally affects the statistics concerning the provision for
children between the ages of 0-6 years, most particularly for the provision for children between 3 and 5 years.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

There has been considerable discussion among the OMEP members relating to the ministry concerned with the education of children between the ages of 0-6 years. Readers will see that in the majority of instances the Ministry of Welfare or Health is responsible for children under the age of 2-3 years and only in Spain and Italy does the Ministry of Education oversee the very young children. However for the older children in kindergartens or nursery classes the response is more varied. In most countries where the Ministry of Education is involved the pre-school teachers are of graduate status, which is reflected in the pay they receive. For example in both France and the UK, teachers working with the younger age range of children are not only paid the same as their counterparts in primary schools, but they also have common elements in their training.

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

Pre-school Teachers

In all countries the pre-school teacher has at least a three year training course, for some it is 4 or 5 years (eg UK, Poland and France). The majority of student teachers commence their professional training at 18 years of age after completing their country's school leaving certificate although in Germany, the former Yugoslavia, and the Republics of Slovak and Czech it is possible to begin training earlier. Until 1993 it was possible to start training in Italy at 14 years, but the age of entry has now been raised to 19 years and all pre-primary teachers will in the future have graduate status.

As is to be expected, age of entry and length of training generally reflect the status of early years teachers in relation to other members of the teaching profession.

Nursery Nurses

In all countries there exists a training which prepares young people for working with children below the age of 2 1/2 - 3 years and to work alongside teachers in nursery schools and classes. The level and extent of the training ranges from short courses to 4 years in countries where the student can commence training at 15 years, the majority of courses being of 2 years duration.

In spite of the attempts of professionals in the field of early childhood education there still exists a large number of untrained workers in institutions with young children. Children below the age of 3 years are particularly vulnerable as much of the provision is in the private sector and it appears that there are considerable numbers of untrained staff working in these institutions. There are few countries where there is any substantial training for child minders and most of the OMEP member countries expressed concern that in many private institutions the quality of provision and training is much lower than in the public sector.
CONTENT OF COURSE

Looking at the content of the courses, particularly those related to the training of teachers it appears that they reflect the ideology of the country. In countries where the philosophy of the society places emphasis upon the development of young children through play and sees the nursery/kindergarten as a stage in its own right, the content of the courses stresses child development and the creative arts. On the other hand, in those countries where early childhood education is viewed as a 'preparatory stage' to formal schooling there appears to be a stronger 'curriculum' emphasis with subjects like mathematics, science and technology being given a high profile in the course.

Practicum

There are wide variations in the amount of practical experience given to early childhood workers. All countries require their trainee teachers and other professionals working with young children to have a period of time in the nursery/creche but it varies from one year to just a few weeks over the total duration of the training.

SOME ISSUES ARISING

During our discussions it became very apparent that for some countries early childhood education is seen as the right of every child and every parent who wishes it and it is the duty of the state to make this provision. This is a philosophy which prevails in Denmark and other countries where there is a high level of provision, whereas governments like those in the UK and Ireland place the onus on parents to provide for their young children and as a result much of the provision lies within both the private and voluntary sectors.

It has been argued by some, that diversity of provision allows for parental choice and also for the possibility of meeting the needs of every child. On the other hand, it is also argued that diversity of provision can lead to lack of coordination of services and to a greater possibility that some of the children in greatest need will be overlooked. Diversity often exists from political expediency, nevertheless we must all ensure that the real interests of the children are paramount.

In all countries there is an awareness of the importance of high quality training for early years workers and a movement over the last few years to upgrade their professional training both in length and content. Many member states have a national curriculum which outlines the content matter to be taught, but none of them expected their teachers to adhere to a rigid syllabus.

It is evident that in most countries there is less attention given to the needs of the youngest children and their parents. The training of the workers is at a lower level and the course content less demanding. Maternity benefits vary from country to country, and in some countries there is little need for provision for children under 2 years. However there are European countries where maternity leave and other benefits are minimal and it is of concern that many very young children whose parents must work outside the home, are left with inadequately trained workers.

This investigation has highlighted both the similarities and the differences
to be found in the training of early years workers in Europe. One area on which we are all agreed, is that when we are working with young children we are both educating and caring for them. An aspect of work with young children which was not investigated related to the need for cooperation with parents. Maybe this could be the focus of a further inquiry as I suspect it would reveal considerable differences and approaches.

Hopefully this booklet will help people working in the field of early childhood education and care to have some understanding of the background of their counterparts in Europe. More detailed information on seven of the OMEP countries can be found in David (1993) and in literature from the European Child Care Network.

I welcome your comments and suggestions for further development.

REFERENCES

Ball C. (1994) Start Right. London. RSA.

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May 1994.
BELGIUM

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0–6 YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crèche</td>
<td>0-3 years</td>
<td>full and part time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecole maternelle</td>
<td>2.5-6 years</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school class</td>
<td>3-6 years</td>
<td>school hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provision available in private, public and catholic sectors.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ministère de la Santé

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

INSTITUTRICE MATERNELLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Enseignement supérieur pédagogique</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>18 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>Higher Secondary School Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Education sciences, social skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>language, art, music, media,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mathematics, domestic economy/care,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>physical education.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practicum

36 weeks

PUERICULTRICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Enseignement professionnel secondaire supérieur</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>15 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>School Leaving Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Psychology, child development, creative subjects, physical education, nutrition, health sciences, mathematics, French and Flemish language.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practicum

500 hours

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 6 YEARS
CZECH REPUBLIC

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0–6 YEARS

Crèche 0-3 years full time
Kindergarten 4-6 years full time

Provision is predominantly in the public sector

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ministry for Health Crèches
Ministry for Education Kindergartens

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER

Institution
Age of entry
Entry qualification
Course length
Course content
Secondary Pedagogy School
14-15 years
8-9 years primary school
4 years
Pedagogy, psychology, music education, art, physical education, dramatical education, methodics, general subjects: mother tongue, foreign language, civics, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, history, geography

Practicum
First Year 2 weeks
Second Year 3 weeks
Third Year 4 hours weekly + 2 weeks
Fourth Year 1 day weekly + 4 weeks

NURSE

Institution
Secondary Health School
Age of entry
14-15 years
Entry qualification
8-9 years primary school
Course length
4 years
Course content
Pedagogy, child care.

Practicum

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 6 YEARS
DENMARK

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0–6 YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vuggestuer (Day Nursery)</td>
<td>0–3</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bornehaver (Kindergarten)</td>
<td>3–7</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Integrated Day Centre</td>
<td>0–10</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Day Care</td>
<td>0–14</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school Class</td>
<td>5–6</td>
<td>school hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provision available in both public and private sector

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ministry of Social Affairs: All except pre-school classes
Ministry of Education and Research: Pre-school classes

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

PEDAGOGUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>College of Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>18 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>High School Diploma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>3.5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Social law, medicine, psychology, education, art, music, drama, movement, nature, Danish language and literature, communication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practicum 64 weeks

TEACHER'S AIDE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>18 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>Work experience and High School Subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FAMILY DAY CARER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Mature persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>Short courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 7 YEARS
FINLAND

**TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0–6 YEARS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Provision</th>
<th>Age Duration</th>
<th>Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day care*</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td>full/part time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Care*</td>
<td>3-6 years</td>
<td>full/part time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten*</td>
<td>6 years</td>
<td>school hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother and Sister Group*</td>
<td>1-6 years</td>
<td>full/part time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Special Day Care</td>
<td>1-6 years</td>
<td>full/part time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Day Care Centre</td>
<td>1-6 years</td>
<td>full/part time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 hour Day Care Centre</td>
<td>1-6 years</td>
<td>residential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roving Day Care Centre</td>
<td>1-6 years</td>
<td>full/part time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Day Care*</td>
<td>1-10 years</td>
<td>part time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provision is public. * are also available in private

**MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

**EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS**

**PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Pre-school Teacher Training Institute University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of Entry</td>
<td>18 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>Secondary School Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Theory and practice of education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DAY CARE NURSE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Social Welfare School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>16 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>Secondary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>2.5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Theory and extended practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**FAMILY DAY CARE MINDER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Social Welfare School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>16 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>Secondary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>250 hours course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Theory and extended practice. Extended practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is anticipated that in the near future all training of preschool teachers will be at university level for 4 years. There will be integrated schooling for all in social and health affairs with specialisation in the last year.

**COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 7 YEARS**
FRANCE

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0-6 YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Provision</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Provision Available in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creche collective (Community day nursery)</td>
<td>2 mths-3 years</td>
<td>full time/6 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creche familiale</td>
<td>2 mths-3 years</td>
<td>full time/6 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halte-garderie (Day nursery)</td>
<td>6 mths-6 years</td>
<td>max 3 hrs daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pouponniere</td>
<td>2 mths-6 years</td>
<td>full time/24 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home d'enfants</td>
<td>2-8 years</td>
<td>residential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecole Maternelle</td>
<td>2-6 years</td>
<td>4 1/2 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jardin d'enfants</td>
<td>3-6 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provision available in both the private and public sectors+
Provision available in public sector-
Provision available in private sector*

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ministry of Social Security and Health
Crèches Collectives et Familiales
Halte Garderie, Pouponniere,
some Jardins d'Enfants
Ecole maternelle

Education

Ecole maternelle

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

INSTITUTRICE (pre-school teacher)

Institution
Instituts Universitaires de Formation des Maitres

Age of entry
18 years

Entry qualification
University degree plus examination

Course length
2 years

Course content
Theory and practice of education, curriculum subjects, administration and social knowledge, study in depth of student's own choice. Teachers in ecole maternelle and ecole primaire receive a common training 1200 hours

Practicum
PUERICULTRICE

Institution: Ecole de Puériculture
Age of entry: 18 years
Entry qualification: Baccalauréat + Diplôme d'infirmière or sage-femme
Course length: 3 years of study
Course content: Medicine, child psychology, sociology, management
Practicum: Practical training

EDUCATRICE DE JEUNES ENFANTS

Institution: Specialist Private Colleges
Age of entry: 18 years
Entry qualification: Baccalauréat
Course length: 2 years
Course content: Child development, health, care, nutrition, sociology, Management
Practicum: Practical training

ASSISTANTE MATERNELLE

Institution: Work place
Age of entry: Mothers of school aged children
Entry qualification: Short courses
Course length: Child development, health, elements of nursing and care
Course content: practical experience
Practicum

Inservice training is available for all levels of early childhood workers.

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 6 YEARS
GERMANY

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0–6 YEARS

Kindergarten* 3-6 years part time
Creche* 0-3 year full time
Parent initiatives 0-4, 4-6 years (mixed age groups)

* Provision available in both public and private sectors.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility for all early childhood education in institutions and initiatives is with the 16 Länder. In some instances the Ministry of Education is responsible, in others it is the Ministry of Social or Cultural Affairs.

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

ERZIEHER (Kindergarten Teacher)

Institution Technical School for Education
Age of entry 17 years
Entry qualification Secondary school
Course length 3 years
Course content Pedagogy, psychology, sociology, sport
Practicum instruction in arts and music
One year

SOZIALPADAGOGEN (Social pedagogues)

Institution Institute of Higher Education
Age of entry 18 years
Entry qualification School Leaving Certificate
Course length 3 years
Course content Pedagogy, psychology, law, sociology, project studies
Practicum One year

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 6 YEARS
GREECE

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0–6 YEARS

Day Nursery*  2 months -2 years  8 hours or less
Nursery* +    2-4 years       8 hours or less
Kindergarten* + 4-6 years       8 hours or less

Public kindergarten open 3 1/2 hours daily
Provision available in public + and private * sector

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ministry of Education Kindergarten
Ministry of Social Provision Nursery (children aged 2-4 years),
                                Day Nursery

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Institution
Age of entry
Entry Qualification
Course length
Course content
Practicum

University
Minimum 18 years
School Leaving Certificate
4 years
Educational studies, psychology,
sociology, pedagogy, eurythmics,
art, curriculum studies, drama, music,
special education, linguistics,
psycholinguistics.
8 semesters of observation and /or
teaching - 1 day per week

NURSERY TEACHER (Private)

Institution
Age of entry
Entry Qualification
Course length
Course content
Practicum

Private college
Minimum 18 years
School Leaving Certificate
1, 2, or 3 years
Educational and professional
studies, curriculum subjects,
eurythmics, drama, music, special
education, linguistics and
psycholinguistics
6 months
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Technological Institute/Polytechnic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>Minimum 18 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>School Leaving Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Health care, nursing, music, art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>education, linguistics and</td>
<td>education, child development, special psycholinguistics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td>6 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 5.5 YEARS**
HUNGARY

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0-6 YEARS

Nursery 0-3 years
Kindergarten 2.5/3-6/7 years
Special kindergarten 3-6 years

Provision available in both public and private sector

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ministry of Education and Science Kindergarten and special kindergarten
Ministry of Health Nursery

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

TEACHER SPECIALIST IN
PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>19 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry Qualification</td>
<td>Final secondary examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Theory and history of pedagogy, psychology, philosophy and arts, anatomy, physiology, child hygiene, aesthetics, sociology, sport pedagogy of family environment, diagnosis and prevention of psychological deviation, languages, methodology and pedagogy of primary school education and education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practicum 0-3 years
4 weeks in each term; 2 weeks spring break/year; 3 weeks summer break/year; 6 weeks before Diploma

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Teacher Training College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>19 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>Final secondary examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Theory and history of psychology, philosophy, ethics, aesthetics, sociology of education, pedagogy, sport, languages.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practicum 0-3 years
4 weeks in each term; 2 weeks spring break/year; 3 weeks summer break/year; 6 weeks before Diploma.

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 6 YEARS
ICELAND

**TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0-6 YEARS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Hours per Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>6 mths-6 years</td>
<td>4-8 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary schooling</td>
<td>6-16 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School and Daycare for</td>
<td>1-16 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>handicapped and disabled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child minding</td>
<td>6 mths-10 years</td>
<td>full/part time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School for deaf*</td>
<td>6 mths-16 years</td>
<td>full/part time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All establishments are public except for day care sector of *

**MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

| Ministry of Education          | Except child minders |
| Ministry of Social Affairs     | Child minders        |

**EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS**

**PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER**

- **Institution**: College for Pre-school Teachers
- **Age of Entry**: 18 years
- **Entry qualification**: High School Diploma
- **Course length**: 3 years
- **Course content**: Psychology, sociology, education, creative arts, music, drama and speech, Icelandic language and literature, hygiene and ecology
- **Practicum**: Field work and practice.

**SOCIAL PEDAGOGUE**

- **Institution**: College for Social Pedagogues
- **Age of entry**: 18 years
- **Entry qualification**: High School Diploma plus 6 months work with handicapped people
- **Course length**: 3 years
- **Course content**: Physical, mental, health courses with emphasis upon handicapped people, psychology, sociology, education, creative arts
- **Practicum**: Field work
SPECIAL TEACHER

Institution
Age of entry
Entry qualification
Diploma
Course length
Course content
Practicum

Students study abroad
Mature students
Pre-school or Elementary School Teacher

2-4 years
Related to specialism

ASSISTANT

Institution
Age of entry
Entry qualification
Course length
Course content
Practicum

Local short courses
18 years

CHILD MINDER

Institution
Age of entry
Entry qualifications
Course length
Course content
Practicum

Local short courses under licence

All short courses provided by local authorities in conjunction with labour unions.

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 7 YEARS
IRELAND

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0-6 YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provision</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private day nursery*</td>
<td>3 mths to 5 years</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work place nursery*</td>
<td>3 mths to 5 years</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play group*</td>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td>part time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naíonraí (Irish)*</td>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td>part time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State aided day nursery+</td>
<td>2-5 years</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-primary class#</td>
<td>4-6 years</td>
<td>school hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Privately funded. # Publicly funded
+ State provided with parental financial contributions

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Department of Education Pre-primary classes
Department of Health Remaining types

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

TEACHER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>College of Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>Post 18 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>Leaving Certificate, interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>oral Irish and music tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>3/4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Academic subjects/educational aspects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>philosophy, psychology, sociology,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>history, curriculum theory, child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>development.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practicum

Varies according to college

PRE-SCHOOL WORKER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Technology Institute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>Post 18 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>Leaving Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>Two years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Child development, child health, sociology,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>social policy, law, relationship/communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>skills, creative studies, early education.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practicum

Varies according to college

MONTESSORI TEACHER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Private colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>Post 18 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>1/2 years training according to college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Child development, Montessori theory and practice, psychology, curriculum subjects, language.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practicum

Varies - up to 500 hours
PLAYGROUP/NAIONRAÍ
WORKER

Institution                           Various
Age of entry                          Any age
Entry qualification                   None
Course length                         10 week introductory/1 year Diploma
Course content                       Varies
Practicum

NURSERY NURSE

Institution                           Private colleges
Age of entry                          Post 16 years
Entry qualification                   Vary plus interview
Course length                         2 years
Course content
Health education, welfare, sociology
curriculum subjects, communication skills.
Practicum                             0.4 theory, 0.6 practical

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 5 YEARS
ISRAEL

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0-6 YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td>School hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre-based Day Care</td>
<td>6 mths - 3 years</td>
<td>Full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Day Care</td>
<td>6 mths - 2 years</td>
<td>Full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler Centre</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td>Part time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provision available in both public and private sector.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Ministry of Education: Kindergartens, children aged 2 and 3 years in Day Care Centres
- Ministry of Labour and Welfare: Others

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER

| Institution: Teacher Training College |
| Age of entry: 20 years |
| Entry qualification: Qualifying Secondary School Certificate |
| Course length: 3 years |
| Course content: B.Ed. |

PARAPROFESSIONAL (Trained)

| Institution: Vocational Secondary School |
| Age of entry: 20 years |
| Entry qualification: 10 years schooling |
| Course length: 1 year |
| Course content: Child growth and development, curriculum areas eg. music, art, literature Supervised practical work |

PARAPROFESSIONAL

| Institution: Local courses |
| Age of entry: 20 years |
| Entry qualification: 10 years of schooling |
| Course length: Syllabus set by Ministeries of Education and Welfare |

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 5 YEARS WITH A COMPULSORY KINDERGARTEN YEAR
ITALY

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0-6 YEARS

Asilo Nido
(Day nursery)  
0-3 years  full/part time

Scuola dell'Infanzia
(Nursery school)  
3-6 years  full/part time

Provision available in the private and public sectors.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ministry della Pubblica Instruzione

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

PRE-PRIMARY TEACHER

Institution  
Scuola Magistrale

Age of entry  
14 years

Entry qualification  
Compulsory School Leaving Certificate

Course length*  
3 years

Course content  
General academic subjects, pedagogy, hygiene, domestic economy and housework, music, art, methodology, physical education, sport.

Practicum  
Substantial period supervised and assessed by teacher in practice school.

ASSISTENTE per L'INFANZIA
(Caregiver)

Institution  
Instituto Professionale di Assistenti per L'Infanzia

Age of entry  
14 years

Entry qualification  
Compulsory School Leaving Certificate

Course length  
3 years

Course content  
Special programme

Practicum  
Substantial period

* It is proposed that from 1993 all entrants into pre-primary teaching will be 19 years of age and will follow a 4 year course at university.

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 6 YEARS
NORWAY

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0-6 YEARS

Barnhage (Kindergarten) 0-7 years full and part time
Family Day Care* 0-7 years full time

* to be approved, Family Day Care must be supervised by a teacher (1-30 children)
Public and private sector provision available

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ministry of Child and Family Affairs

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER

Institution
Age of entry
Entry qualification
Course length
Course content

College of Education/University
20 years
12 years schooling
3 years
Pedagogical theory, psychology, professional studies
Curriculum studies, plus specialisation in one subject area
20 weeks

Practicum

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER

Institution
Age of entry
Entry qualification
Course length
Course content

College of Education/University
Minimum 21 years
12 years schooling plus 3 years in kindergarten
4 years
Pedagogical theory, psychology, professional studies, curriculum studies
3 years

Practicum

TEACHER ASSISTANT

Institution
Age of entry
Entry qualification
Course length
Course content

Commercial Training School
Minimum 21 years
At least 3 years practical experience
4 years
Modified pre-school teacher's course
Emphasis upon supervised practice

Practicum
CHILDREN'S NURSE

Institution
Age of entry
Entry qualification
Course length
Course content
Practicum

Minimum 19 years
10 years of schooling
1 year
Nursery nursing and theoretical training

FAMILY DAY CARER

No specific training

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 7 YEARS. It is anticipated that the age will be lowered to 6 years in the future and that pre-school teachers will be involved.
POLAND

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0–6 YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0-3 years</th>
<th>full/part time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creche</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>3-6 years</td>
<td>full/part time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provision available in the public and non public sectors (private, cooperative etc).

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ministry of Health and Welfare
Ministry of National Education

CRECHE

EARTLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

ADVANCED TEACHER*

Institution

Age of entry
Entry qualification

Course length
Course Content

Practicum

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER

Institution

Age of entry
Entry qualification

Course length
Course content

Practicum

University or Advanced College of Education
19 years
Secondary School Certificate, interview, written examination
5 years
**Philosophy, pedagogy, psychology, social skills, theory, practical activities, methodology and culture**
4-6 weeks each year

Teachers' College
19 years
Secondary School Certificate, examination and interview
3 years
Philosophy pedagogy, psychology, social skills, theory and practical activities, methodology culture
4 weeks per year
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Medical Secondary School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>15 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>Certificate of 8 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>compulsory schooling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Comprehensive general</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>subjects, medical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>subjects, nursing,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>psychology, pedagogy,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>theory and practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td>3-5 weeks each year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Teachers trained at university or advanced college level may also teach in the primary school.

**COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 7 YEARS**
PORTUGAL

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0–6 YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>Hourly Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'Infantario' (Day Care Centre)</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crèche</td>
<td>3 mths- 5</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Care Centre with crèche</td>
<td>3 mths- 5</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jardin des enfants (Nursery school)</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>part time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery class in primary school</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>school hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Private and public provision available in all categories. In some instances parents are given financial assistance towards the cost of the provision.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Ministry of Education: Nurseries and nursery classes
- Ministry of Social Services: All other provision

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

**EDUCADORA DE INFANCIA**
(Nursery Teacher)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>University or Polytechnic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>18 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>Completion of secondary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>schooling, examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Psychology, sociology, pedagogy, curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>subjects special needs, child development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td>22.5% - 27.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VIGILANTE**
(Assistant)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Variable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>No special preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 6 YEARS
**SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

**TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0-6 YEARS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Age or duration</th>
<th>Course Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creche</td>
<td>6 mths-3 years</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>2/3- 6 years</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provision is predominantly in the public sector.

**MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry for Health</td>
<td>Creches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry for Education</td>
<td>Kindergartens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS**

**PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Age of entry</th>
<th>Entry qualification</th>
<th>Course Length</th>
<th>Course Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Pedagogy School</td>
<td>14-15 years</td>
<td>8-9 years primary school</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>Pedagogy, psychology, music education, physical education, art education,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dramatic education, methodics, general subjects: mother language, foreign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>language, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, history, geography, civics.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Practicum                   | First year 1-2 weeks | Second year 3 weeks | Third year 4 hours weekly + 2 weeks | Fourth year 1 day weekly + 4 weeks |

**NURSE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Age of entry</th>
<th>Entry qualification</th>
<th>Course Length</th>
<th>Course Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Health School</td>
<td>14-15 years</td>
<td>8-9 years primary school</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>Pedagogy, child care.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 6 YEARS**
## SPAIN

### TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0-6 YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provision</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Escola bressol (nursery school)</td>
<td>0-3 years</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parvulari (nursery class)</td>
<td>3-6 years</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escola infantil (infant school)</td>
<td>0-6 years</td>
<td>full/part time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre materno -infantil (mother-toddler)</td>
<td>0-1 year with mothers</td>
<td>0-3 years with parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casas de los niños in rural areas</td>
<td>0-6 years</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-escolar na casa (peripatetic nursery class in rural areas or isolated houses)</td>
<td>0-6 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ludoteque (toy library)</td>
<td>3-6 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre de temps lliure (Leisure centre)</td>
<td>3-6 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's library</td>
<td>3-6 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ministry of Education

### EARLY CHILHOOD WORKERS

**EARLY YEARS EDUCATION TEACHER**
(working in Nursery Schools and Nursery Classes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>University colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>18 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>Baccalaureate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Physiology, psychology, sociology, music, arts, physical education, mathematics, Spanish language, Catalan language, methodology, early years care &amp; education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td>First year 1 week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Second year 1 month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third year 3 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPECIALIST TECHNICIAN
(working in Nursery schools-
Early Years Education)

Institution
Age of entry
Entry Qualification
Course length
Course content

Secondary Training School
16 years
Completion of primary school
2 years
Pedagogy, Psychology, Sociology, Music, Art, Physical Education, Child Development, Mathematics, Spanish Language, Catalan Language, Methodology, Early Years Care and Education
Periods in both years

Practicum

TEACHER ASSISTANTS
(for 0-3 year olds)

Institution

It is compulsory to have a qualification:
either a University Diploma as Early Years Teacher or a Technical Secondary Education Diploma as Early Years Educator

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 6 YEARS
SWITZERLAND

The situation in Switzerland is very complex and this is a simplified account.

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0–6 YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Age of Entry</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crèche*</td>
<td>0-6 years</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jardin d'enfants *</td>
<td>4-6 years</td>
<td>(predominantly Swiss-German)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten *</td>
<td>4-6 years</td>
<td>(predominantly Swiss-German)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecole enfantine +</td>
<td>4-6 years</td>
<td>(predominantly Swiss-French)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Nursery school)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private sector *</td>
<td></td>
<td>Public sector+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td>Each of the 26 cantons for Ecoles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>enfantines is competent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission Scolaire Communale</td>
<td>Jardins d'enfants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association privées</td>
<td>Crèches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

JARDINIÈRE D'ENFANTS/KINDERGARTNERIN
(pre-school teacher)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Ecole d'Educatrices de la Petite Enfance or equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>18 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>Baccalauréat or equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Pedagogy, psychology, creative subjects, health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for 50% of training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50% of training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INSTITUTRICE D'ECOLE ENFANTINE
(pre-school teacher)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Ecole normale or Etudes Pédagogiques</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>18-20 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>Baccalauréat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Theoretical subjects - psychology, pedagogy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for 50% of training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50% of training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EDUCATRICE DE LA PETITE
ENFANCE (nurse)

| Institution                                      | Ecole d'Educatrices de la Petite Enfance |
| Age of entry                                     | 18 years                                |
| Entry qualification                              | Baccalaureat                            |
| Course length                                    | 3 years                                 |
| Course content                                   | Psychology, pedagogy, health and creative studies for 50% of training |
| Practicum                                        | 50% of training                         |

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 6 YEARS
SWEDEN

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0-6 YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daghem (Day Care Centres)</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daghem</td>
<td>1-7</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daghem</td>
<td>3-7</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daghem</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daghem</td>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daghem</td>
<td>1-10</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deltidsgrupp (part time pre-school)</td>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child minders</td>
<td>0-10</td>
<td>full/part time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provision available in both the private and public sector

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

National Board of Health and Social Welfare
Ministry of Social Affairs

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Age of entry</th>
<th>Entry qualification</th>
<th>Course length</th>
<th>Course content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 years</td>
<td>Senior High School</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Social law, psychology, Swedish language and literature, art, educational theory, music, drama, movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NURSERY NURSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Age of entry</th>
<th>Entry qualification</th>
<th>Course length</th>
<th>Course content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 years</td>
<td>Senior High School</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>50% general subjects, 50% electives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16 weeks, but not all necessarily within early childhood education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHILD MINDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Age of entry</th>
<th>Entry qualification</th>
<th>Course length</th>
<th>Course content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Community Inservice Training</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 7 YEARS
TURKEY

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0-6 YEARS

Creche and Day Care Centre+ 0-2 years full and part time
Day Care Centre+ 3-6 years full time
Nursery School+ 3-6 years school hours
Nursery Class* 5-6 years school hours

+ Provision available in both the public and the private sector
* Provision available in public sector only
Majority of provision is in private sector

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ministry of Education 3-6 years
Ministry of Health and 0-3 years
Social Welfare

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

TEACHER

Institution
Age of entry
Entry qualification
Course length
Course content
Practicum

Early Childhood Education Departments in University
18 years
High School Diploma and entrance examination
4 years
Child Development, curriculum development literature, art and music for children
Two years covering 4 semesters

EARLY YEARS WORKER
(in day nursery)

Institution
Age of entry
Entry qualification
Course length
Course content
Practicum

Vocational High School for Girls
Enrolment can be after primary or secondary school- 12 for secondary school and 15 for high school
Completion of primary school or secondary school
6 years or 3 years
Child development, education, music, art, literature for children, toy making, curriculum development
### NURSE
*(specialist in child health 0-1 years)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Higher Vocational Institute or Vocational Institute for Nurses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of Entry</td>
<td>18 or 15 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>High school or secondary school graduates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of entry</td>
<td>21 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualification</td>
<td>Bsc. in Psychology and Msc Examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course length</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course content</td>
<td>Child Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 6 YEARS**
UNITED KINGDOM

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN 0–6 YEARS

Day Nursery++ 0-5 years full/part time
Nursery School/class++ 3-5 years full/part time
Nursery Centre* 2mths-5 years full/part time
Family Centre* 2 mths-5 years full/part time
Primary school++ 4/5 years full time by 5 maybe part time
Playgroup+ 2.5-4 years at 4 years part time
Work place nursery+ 2mths-5 years full time
Parent/toddler group+ 1-3 years part time
Childminder+ 0-5 years full/part time

Provision available in public* and private+ sectors

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Department for Education Nursery schools, classes, and centres in the public sector and all primary schools, public and private
Department of Health/ Private nursery schools, day nurseries Child minders, play groups
Local Authority Social Services parent/ toddler groups, family centres.

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

TEACHER*

Institution University/ Institute of Higher Education
Age of Entry 18 years
Entry qualification Minimum of 5 subjects at ordinary level and 2 at advanced level including Mathematics and English+
Course length 4 years
Course content Educational and professional studies, curriculum studies, special subject and its applications
Practicum Minimum 100 days

TEACHER*

Institution University/Institute of Higher Education
Age of Entry 21 years
Entry qualification Degree in subject relevant to primary curriculum plus English and Mathematics at Ordinary level+
Course length 1 year
Course content Professional studies, curriculum studies, application subject specialism to early childhood education
Practicum Minimum 75 days.
ARTICLED TEACHER

Institution
Age of entry
Entry qualification
Course length
Course content
Practicum

University/Institute of Higher Education
21 years
English and Mathematics at Ordinary level
plus degree in subject relevant to primary
curriculum. Certificate of medical fitness
2 years
Professional studies, curriculum
studies, application subject specialism to
eyear childhood education.
Minimum 100 days.

NURSERY NURSE

Institution
Age of entry
Entry qualification
Course length
Course content
Practicum

College of Further Education
16 years
Completion of secondary school/interview
2 years (full time) up to 5 years part
time.
Child development, health, social studies,
environmental studies, communication
skills, creative activities.
0.6 practical; 0.4 theory

MONTESSORI TEACHER

Institution
Age of entry
Entry qualification
Course length
Course content
Practicum

Private Colleges
18 years
Varies
1-2 years
Child development, psychology, Montessori
philosophy and theory and practice,
language, curriculum subjects
up to 500 hours

CHILD MINDER

Institution
Age of entry
Entry qualification
Course length
Course content
Practicum

Colleges of Further Education
Mature person
Subject to registration
Short courses available
Health and developmental issues

PLAYGROUP WORKER

Institution
Age of entry
Entry qualification
Course length
Course content
Practicum

Local authority or College of Further
Education
Mature person
None
Basic 10 weeks, 1-2 year Diploma available
Child development, playgroup
management, curriculum issues.
National Vocational Qualifications at levels II and III, were introduced in 1993. These are available for all workers below teacher level. Assessment takes place in the work place.

* Teachers are qualified to teach in both nursery and primary schools.
  - Articled Teacher scheme is to be discontinued after 1995
  + From September 1994 all new entrants to the teaching profession must have science at Ordinary level.

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 5 YEARS
FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

TYPES OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AGED 0–6 YEARS

- Creche * 1-3 years full time
- Kindergarten * 3-7 years school hours
- Day care nurseries * 3-7 years full time
- Special groups/ kindergartens 3-8/9 years part time
* Available in both public and private sectors
+ Available only in public sector

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Ministry of Work and Ministry of Health
- Social Assistance Welfare
- Ministry of Education Educational issues
- Health

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER

Institution Teachers' College (Akademia)
Age of entry 18/19 years
Entry qualification 8 years elementary schooling plus 4 years secondary schooling
Course length 6 years including 4 years secondary schooling
Course content 4 years general education, sociology, psychology, pedagogy
Practicum 2 years professional training.

DEFECTOLOGIST/SPECIAL EDUCATOR

Institution College or Faculty of Defectology
Age of entry 18/19 years
Entry Qualification 8 years elementary, 4 years secondary schooling
Course length 4 years University
Course content General education, special education, psychology
Practicum

NURSE /PRE-SCHOOL WORKER

Institution Secondary Medical Vocational College
Age of entry 15 years
Entry qualification 8 years elementary schooling
Course length 4 years (2 year medical option)
Course content General educational, medical and psychology courses.
Practicum

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING COMMENCES AT 7 YEARS
SUGGESTED READING


This booklet is available from

Audrey Curtis
Institute of Education
University of London
20 Bedford Way
London WC1A 0AL

OMEP (UK) Publications
Mrs R Segebarth
753 Bury Rd
Rochdale OL11 4BB
APPENDIX

EUROPEAN REGION OMEP.
COMPARISON OF PROVISION AND TRAINING OF WORKERS IN
PRESCHOOL Provision.

********

SECTION 1 PROVISION.

TYPE OF ESTABLISHMENT.
Please list the different kinds of provision available for children in your country with ages (e.g. Kindergarten 0-5 years)

IS ALL THE PROVISION a) Public...b) Private...c) Mixed...?
Please mark the appropriate section.

WHICH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE?

a)

b)

c)

********

SECTION 2. CATEGORIES OF STAFF INVOLVED WITH THE CHILDREN

TRAINING OF WORKERS.- Please list for each type of worker, giving details of age of entry to training etc.

1 Category of worker :-
Age of entry to training :-
Length of the course :-
Where training takes place:-
Subjects covered by the course:-.
2. Category of worker: -
   Age of entry to training: -
   Length of the course: -
   Where training takes place: -
   Subjects covered by the course: -

3. Category of worker: -
   Age of entry to training: -
   Length of course: -
   Where training takes place: -
   Subjects covered by the course: -

4. Category of worker: -
   Age of entry to training: -
   Length of course: -
   Where training takes place: -
   Subjects covered by the course: -

************

WHAT IS THE POLICY IN YOUR COUNTRY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES?

************

ANY OTHER COMMENTS.