



ORGANISATION MONDIALE POUR L'ÉDUCATION PRESCOLAIRE
WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL PARA LA EDUCACIÓN PREESCOLAR

OMEP POSITION ON THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE AS A PRIORITY ON THE WORLD AGENDA

As the oldest and largest global professional organization committed to children between birth and 8 years of age, OMEP urges local, state, regional, and international decision-makers to invest in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC). OMEP urges the world community to include ECEC as a priority in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2015 - 2030.

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) is broadly defined to include safe, healthy, and appropriate, experiences for young children (birth to age 8) in homes, communities, preschools, and all other places where young children live, learn, and play.

Children's Rights: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989) guarantee all children the right to the conditions necessary for their health, wellbeing, and education so they can develop to their full potential.

Scientific Evidence: Robust scientific evidence from many fields clearly shows that

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) benefit not only the children who receive it, but also the societies in which they live.

The first years of life (especially birth to age 3) provide a unique window of opportunity for brain development as an irreplaceable foundation for future academic achievement, productivity, and social contributions over the lifetime.

High quality experiences, including play, during early childhood provide the foundation for all future learning. Therefore, access to high quality ECEC promotes not only school readiness, but also success throughout the school years and beyond.

Leading economists agree that the best economic decision a country can make is to invest in its youngest children.

High quality preschool programs can compensate for difficulties children may encounter in their homes and their communities.

Access to high quality ECEC promotes equity for

- Boys and girls
- Children from various ethnic and cultural groups
- Urban and rural children
- Children with special needs
- Economically advantaged and disadvantaged children

Investing in early childhood increases the benefits of investments in older children.

*For further information about the scientific evidence referenced here,
please visit the OMEP website at www.omep.org.gu.se*