

## OMEP World Message: In memory of Colette DURAND



We have just learned of the death of Colette DURAND, at the age of 92. A primary school teacher, then Inspector of National Education in Paris, she joined OMEP in 1955, on the advice of Mrs. Suzanne HERBINIERE-LEBERT, one of the Founding Presidents of OMEP. President of OMEP-France from 1994 to 2002, OMEP representative to UNESCO from 1999 to 2005, Colette DURAND continued the work of improving the pedagogy and the specific visibility of young children. She has established the link between structures that receive young children, in particular nurseries, in order to value the physical person and the personality of the youngest. During her tenure at OMEP-France, Colette DURAND organized seminars, colloquia and exhibitions, including a European seminar "Educating young children in Europe" (1996) under the auspices of UNESCO. She has given lectures on topics that are still topical such as "Socialization through the nursery", "Children from 2 to 3 years in the nursery", "Discipline" or even "The rights of the child". She organized an exhibition on Culture of Peace (2000) and participated in a European reflection led by the National Center for the Study and Training of Inadequate Children on an early prevention policy for learning difficulties. In addition to publications within the framework of OMEP-France (newsletters, seminar proceedings, articles, etc.), Colette DURAND has made numerous personal publications in the monthly magazine "L'Ecole Maternelle Française" which she directed for 5 years. She has published 2 books on the beginning of written language: "Communication and Coding" and "Inventing a script to understand writing". She has also participated in language programs on Radio France Internationale, aimed at parents in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2015, her commitment, her reflection and her work fully justified the appointment of Colette DURAND as an honorary member of OMEP World.

Danièle PERRUCHON, President OMEP-France.



Colette DURAND and Gaston MIALARET - World President of OMEP from 1968 to 1974 –

