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German Federal Programs
“Elternchance I and II” (Opportunities for Parents)
- Supporting Early Childhood Education
by Means of Parental Support

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Agenda

2. Lessons from 8 years of the “Elternchance“ Programs
3. Conclusions
1. The German Federal Programs “Elternchance I and II”

![Bar chart showing daycare rate among children aged under 6 with and without migrant background (in %).](chart.png)

Source: BMFSFJ 2018
1. The German Federal Programs
   “Elternchance I and II”

- The Family is the first and most important actor when it comes to early childhood education

Challenges to support parents in Germany in 2010:

- Family education centers are not successful enough in reaching disadvantaged families (middle class bias)
- Daycare centers have difficulties in supporting parents in educational matters (Goal: Education and childrearing partnerships between staff and parents)
- Institutions and actors are often working separately and not via networks and cooperation within their “Sozialraum” (local communities)

Sources: Betz 2015; BMFSFJ 2016; Correll et al. 2015; Lösel 2006

1. Training of specialists as „Elternbegleiter“ (parental advisors)

10,000 parental advisors have been trained across Germany

- Training (a total of 190 units, 3 weeks classroom-based; combining theory and practice: educational transitions, everyday learning situations, low-threshold access, communication skills, networking etc.)

2. Professionalization of parental advisory services & Development of strong municipal support to back these services

- Additional training activities for the parental advisors
- Model Program: “Starke Netzwerke Elternbegleitung für Geflüchtete” (Robust Networks for Parental Advice for Refugee Families)
- Networking with scientific and political actors

Scientific evaluation

www.elternchance.de
1. The German Federal Programs “Elternchance I and II”

Results from the scientific evaluation (2015):

**Parental advisors:**
- Very high satisfaction scores
- Sustainable increase in knowledge and skills: 1) dialogue skills; 2) empathy skills specific to the target group; 3) professional self-efficacy; 4) constructive cooperation with parents
- High degree of practical relevance of the training
- Main barriers to putting parenting advice into practice: Lack of time and lack of resources

**Parents:**
- Very high satisfaction scores
- 94 percent of parents stated that they would recommend their parental advisor to other parents
- Parental advisors effectively facilitate access to professional support on education matters and other associated topics

Sources: Müller et al. 2015a and 2015b
2. Lessons from 8 years of „Elternchance“ Programs

- Parental advising is a useful preventive measure and has a substantial economic benefit

How to best reach disadvantaged families through parental advising:

- Professionalization of specialists:
  - Knowledge about early education; communication skills (meeting parents at eye-level, etc.)
  - Additional qualifications: Language skills and cultural knowledge are key elements to reach people with a migrant background

- Access: Low-threshold services (to get in contact and build up trust)

- Networking: Close cooperation between the different institutions and actors within their local communities -“Sozialraum” (synergy effects, innovative services, access to other families, more sustainable effectiveness)

Sources: BMFSFJ 2016; Correll et al. 2015; Krüger 2018a, 2018b; Müller et al. 2015a, 2015b
3. Conclusions

- The “Elternchance” programs, with their growing number of parental advisors, help increase equal opportunities for disadvantaged families.
- The program contributes to the further development of Germany’s family education landscape towards early childhood education.
- The challenge going forward will be to permanently establish and sustain quality parental advising services nationwide.

Source: Parental advisors, www.bmfsfj.de
Sources


Sources

https://www.bmfsfj.de/blob/73496/0290999f2810270e2b6fec6a4bb840fd/bestandsaufnahme-ernbildungsberich-loeselstidie-data.pdf

More information about the “Elternchance” Programs
https://www.elternchance.de/service/links-downloads/