



Suomen pysyvä edustusto OECD:ssä
Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OECD



Family and Community Engagement in Finnish ECEC

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Supporting family and community engagement – principles



- **Comprehensive approach to well-being of the families and the youth**
 - Family and youth policies: Investment from early on
 - Coherence between care, social, educational and health services and income support, town planning
 - Care, education and learning: a whole
- **Universalist approach // subjective right to daily care**
 - Equality: vulnerable children identified within the system
 - Individual family needs, situations and respected: parents' choice between different options

Principles, starting points and objectives continued



- Child's needs in the heart of solutions:
 - Childhood strongly respected
 - UN Convention on Children Rights
- Strong and close partnership between parents and (formal) educators /health services: co-operation, common task!

Implementation of the parent-educators partnership



- Included holistically in (decentralized) Acts dealing with ECEC:
 - The Day Care Act
 - The Basic Education Act
 - The Government Resolution concerning the National ECEC Policy Definition
 - The National Curriculum Guidelines on ECEC
 - The Core Curriculum for Pre-primary Education
 - Decrees on different Health and Maternity Services
 - The Act on the Status and Rights of Social Welfare Clients
- Individual ECEC plan:
 - Parents strongly involved
 - Measures on the basis of every child's specific needs
 - Assessed and revised regularly
- No day care and pre-schooling obligations: other options available

Ways to collaborate with parents



- Making and assessing the Child's ECEC Plan, the Child's Pre-Primary Learning Plan or the Child's Special Support Plan
- Making and assessing curriculum for the day care center
- Daily discussions
- Festivities: Christmas parties, spring closing ceremonies, Mothers' and Fathers' day celebrations, Grandparents' days
- Day care center grannies
- Parent nights, workshops, voluntary work
- Statutory health examinations in maternity and child health clinics

Responsibilities (for the time being)



- Tradition of consensus building and inter-sectional co-operation
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Health: Early childhood education (/social and health services, income support, social security)
- Ministry of Education and Culture: Pre-primary education (/schooling)
- Municipalities: Appropriate (social, health, educational and care) services > easiness?
- Private care services, including Daily Care Centers of the Church
- Advisory Board for Early Childhood Education and Care
 - Assessment and promotion of early childhood education; initiatives taking
 - Promotion of co-operation between all the stakeholders
 - Members: ministries, municipalities, regions, church, educational institutions, trade unions, universities, research institutes, NGOs

Challenges:



- Personnel: availability, quality, management
- Availability of services/participation of all children
 - Regional disparities : rural areas
- Fathers' involvement
- (Finances > efficiency)
- Development on the basis of changing needs in society
- Coherence between different administrations

Solutions: Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen's Governmental program - June 22nd

- Daily care services guaranteed to the entire age cohort
- A new comprehensive law for ECEC
- Pre-primary education obligatory for whole cohort at age of 6 years
- Ministry of Education and Culture responsible for ECEC
- Daily Care more flexible in relation to both parents' work
- More integration with home care
- Social inclusion function emphasized; co-operation with social and health services / free services for low income families

Lessons from Finland



- Existing partnership model promotes children's stable development, learning and independency
 - Children's rights: main driver
 - Beyond ECEC services
 - Structures available: Family's choices, individual situations and needs respected
- System adapted on the basis of concrete needs and concerns
 - More universalism?



Thank you