

**OECD Policy Workshop on Enhancing Child Well-Being
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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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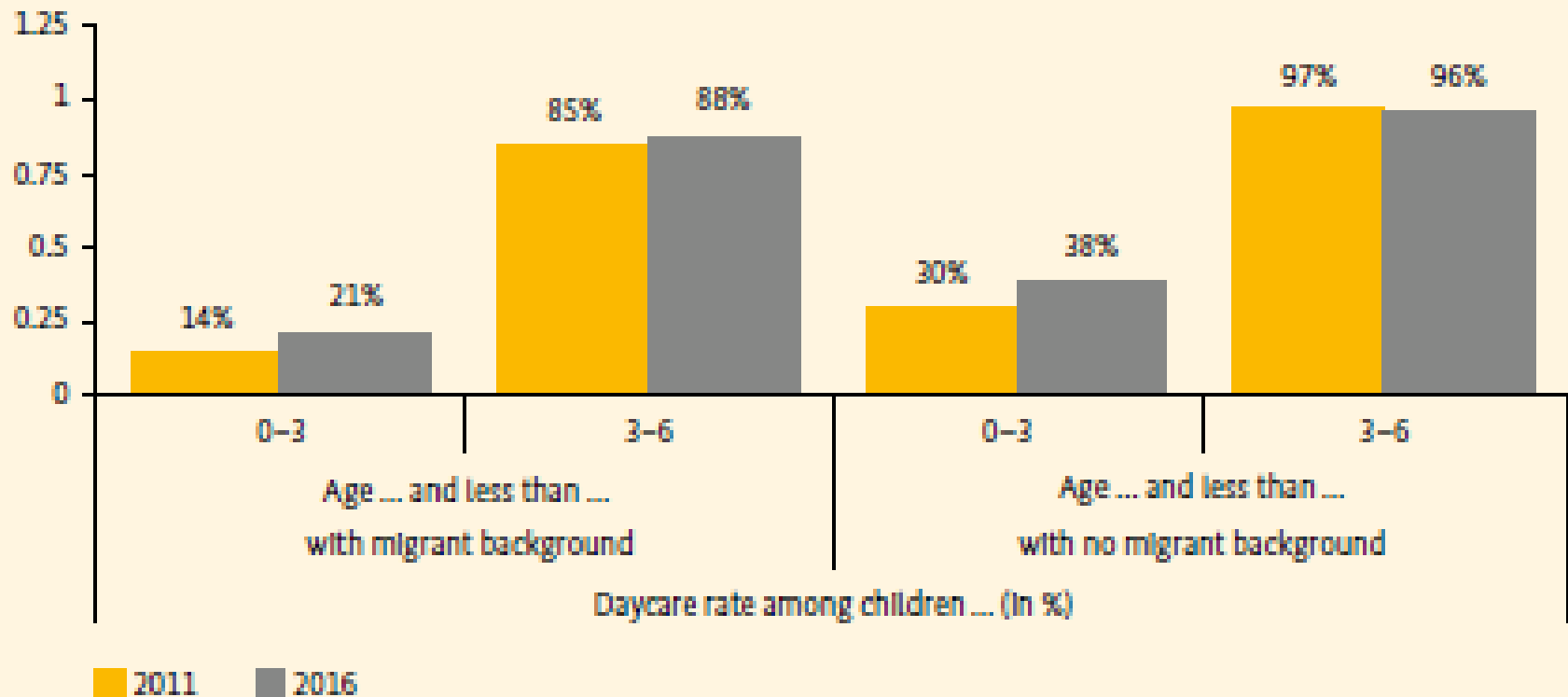
Agenda

- 1. The German Federal Programs “*Elterchance* I and II”
(2011 - 2020)**
- 2. Lessons from 8 years of the “*Elterchance*“ Programs**
- 3. Conclusions**



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

Daycare rate among children aged under 6 with and without migrant background (in %)



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

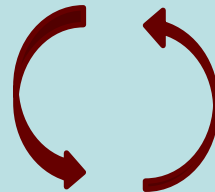


1. The German Federal Programs “Elternchance I and II” (2011-2020)

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.)



**Scientific
evaluation**

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

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



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More information about the “Elternchance” Programs

<https://www.elternchance.de/service/links-downloads/>