

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION – INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

**Invitation to EFA Forum
Oslo, 18 November 2010**

EFA – Forum 2010 will discuss how we, based on recent research should expand and improve comprehensive Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children. The seminar is a follow up to the *UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals* and the *World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education* – two important global events organized in September 2010. Internationally renowned scholars will present the most recent research and guide us in the discussion around the key issues in early childhood today.

Where: NORAD, Ruseløkkveien 26, Oslo
When: 09:00 – 13:00, Thursday 18 November
Registration: Please send an e-mail to natcom@unesco.no
Deadline: Friday 12 November

PROGRAMME

- 9:00 – 10:00 **Welcome and introduction**
Ragnhild Dybdahl, Director, Education and Research Dept. Norad
- World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education in Moscow**
Developing good practice policies for Early Childhood Care and Education
Tove Mogstad Slinde, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Education and Research
- From New York to country level - can we reach the MDGs?**
Hege Hertzberg, Director for Development Policy, The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 10:00 – 10:40 **A New Framework for Early Childhood Policy and Practice**
Unified scientific understanding of the early childhood origins of health, learning and behavior
Ragnhild Dybdahl, Director, Education and Research Dept. Norad
- Is child care good for children? Long-run evidence from Norway**
Tarjei Havnes, Department of Economics, University of Oslo
- 10:40 – 11:00 Coffee and tea, sandwiches
- 11:00 – 12:15 **Delivering on the promises made for ECCE: challenges of equity in access and quality. Evidence from Young Lives research in Ethiopia, India and Peru**
Martin Woodhead, Young Lives, University of Oxford and Professor of Childhood Studies at the Open University, UK
- Please know us before you try to help us enjoy the benefits of EFA goal no 1**
Bame Nsamenang, Associate Professor of Psychology & Counselling, Yaoundé University, Cameroon
- 12:15 – 13:00 **Discussion**
- Closing comments** from Child Rights NGOs, Academia and Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Conclusions from research on Early Childhood Care and Development:

Early childhood and maternal health and nutrition reinforces educational prospects

- Programmes that combine nutrition and stimulation components show best results.
- Children with early malnutrition experience are likely to score lower in tests assessing cognitive function, psychomotor development, fine motor skills, activity levels and attention span.

ECCE improves attendance and performance at primary and beyond

- There is a positive impact of ECCE on participation and achievement in primary school and beyond.
- Attendance in an ECCE programme can enhance social and emotional development and well-being, language and basic cognitive skills development, and physical and motor development.
- ECCE can improve school readiness, and nurture positive self-image and learning dispositions. It makes enrolment in the first grade of primary education more likely, and increases retention, completion and achievement.

Early intervention can reduce social inequalities

- ECCE can compensate for disadvantage and vulnerability, regardless of underlying factors such as poverty, gender, race/ethnicity, caste or religion.
- ECCE helps level the playing field for disadvantaged children as they enter primary school, empowering them to be confident and successful in later education and employment.
- Publicly funded childcare results in higher productivity and earnings and less dependence on social assistance during the productive and retirement ages.

Investing in ECCE pays off

- Investment in ECCE programmes have high rates of return, and are greater than those of other areas of education.
- Cost-benefit research has shown that savings are made by reducing dropout, repetition and special education placements for both governments and families.
- Children with quality ECCE experience tend to advance to higher education, obtain employment, have higher earnings as well as savings, provide higher contributions to social security, and are less likely to be on public assistance and commit crimes.
- Early childhood development is the most effective programme to improve public spending and policies.

About the EFA Forum

The EFA forum meetings are organized in cooperation between the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Ministry of Education and Research and UNICEF Norway, with the Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO serving as secretariat. The Norwegian EFA Forum aims to stimulate and facilitate information sharing, dialogue and discussions related to Education for All in Norway. Target groups are actors concerned with development cooperation and education, e.g. researchers and students, education specialists, government representatives and NGOs/SCOs working with education.

See next page for links to useful information

Links to useful information:

The World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/world-conference-on-ecce/>

The UN MDG Summit 2010

<http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/>

Education for All

<http://www.unesco.org/en/efa/>

Bame Nsameng: Bio and publications

<http://www.unige.ch/fapse/SSE/teachers/dasen/Nsameng.htm>

Martin Woodhead. Bio

http://www.open.ac.uk/education-and-languages/people/people-profile.php?staff_id=946579

Equity and quality? Challenges for early childhood and primary education in Ethiopia, India and Peru

By Martin Woodhead, Patricia Ames, Uma Vennam, Workneh Abebe and Natalia Streuli

http://www.younglives.org.uk/news-folder/WP55_announcement/

Early Childhood in Focus No 6: "Culture and Learning".

Liz Brooker and Martin Woodhead (Eds.)

http://www.bernardvanleer.org/English/Home/Our-publications/Browse_by_series.html?ps_page=1&getSeries=3

YOUNG LIVES POLICY BRIEF 9: Early Childhood Care and Education as a Strategy for Poverty Reduction

<http://www.childwatch.uio.no/news/2010/young-lives-on-early-childhood>

Havnes & Mogstad: "No child left behind. Universal Child Care and Children's Long-Run Outcomes."

<http://www.ssb.no/cgi-bin/publsoek?job=forside&id=dp-582&kode=dp&lang=en>

"The Foundations of Lifelong Health Are Built in Early Childhood"

http://developingchild.harvard.edu/library/reports_and_working_papers/foundations-of-lifelong-health/

Maureen Black, CIRP member, illustrates how scientific findings about early child development can influence global policies

<http://www.apa.org/international/pi/2009/12/nutrition.aspx>

Overview of early child-care and education programmes and Jamaican case studies

<http://www.unu.edu/Unupress/food/V201e/ch10.htm>

Norad: Lønnsomt å investere i tidlig barndom

<http://www.norad.no/Satsingsomr%C3%A5der/Utdanning+og+forskning/Nyhetsarkiv+Utdanning+og+forskning/L%C3%B8nnsomt+%C3%A5+investere+i+tidlig+barndom.204512.cms>

Childwatch International: Early Childhood Resource Page:

<http://www.childwatch.uio.no/research/early-childhood/>