“IMPROVING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN THE CARIBBEAN THROUGH COOPERATION WITH CHILE”

CHILDREN’S RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL POLICIES
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High Returns from Early Investments

- Take advantage of malleability
- Build strong foundations for further learning
- Prevent early damage / avoid loss of potential which cannot be remediated

Invest strongly in early childhood programs, even if payoff is only 20+ years from today

Source: Pedro Carneiro, 2008
Implement an Overall ECD Strategy

- Intervene early, often, and effectively
- Allocate sufficient resources
- Ensure relevant training
  Enhance the next generation’s competency for understanding human development
- Build systems, *not* just projects
  Emphasize equity, sustainability, and population health
- Monitor and evaluate
  Measure child development outcomes
Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989

Is an international instrument setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of children. Nations that ratify this international convention are bound to it by international law. Compliance is monitored by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.
General Comment 7: Implementing Child Rights in Early Childhood, Sept, 2005

Address;

• human rights definitions and protections for children including points on the needs and vulnerability of the earliest years of development.
• parental responsibility and assistance from states parties, detailing respect for appropriate roles for caregivers,
• role of the family, and the role of state assistance.
• describe policies and programs appropriate for early childhood,
• support capacity building including training, research, data collection, resource allocation, and international assistance.
General Comment no 11: Indigenous Children and their Rights under the Convention, Jan.09

Not be discriminated; Enjoy their culture; Use their own language (read and write in their own language); Profess and practice their own religion; Have access to education, vocational training, health and other services that are culturally sensitive. Be protected from all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse and abandonment, including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking and child labour.
The right of the child to be heard

- is structured according to the distinction made by the Committee between the right to be heard of an individual child and the right to be heard as applied to a group of children. This is a relevant distinction that the Convention stipulates.

- These processes are usually called participation. The exercise of the child’s or children’s right to be heard is a crucial element of such processes.
"We recognize the need to broaden the educational structure to include early childhood education because of its positive impact on the quality of education and on the reduction of inequality."
V Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education

November 15-16, 2007, CIDI/RME/doc.10/07 Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

“Hemispheric Commitment to Early Childhood Education” and Guidelines for its execution

(Ratified by the VI Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education, August 12-14, 2009
CIDI/RME/doc.xxxx/09
Quito, Ecuador)
 WE AGREE, that early childhood education is fundamental in the process of comprehensive development of children from birth to eight years of age, and we recognize that it is provided in different ways in different countries, but must include a joint effort by the family, school, and the community to develop effective public policies, as well as the contribution of the various sectors in society.
Hemispheric Commitment to Early Childhood Education”

• “WE RECOGNIZE the family as the first and irreplaceable medium for educating and taking care of girls and boys, as well as the role of communities and governments in promoting policies of equitable access to quality early childhood education and its effective incorporation into each country’s educational system”.
“Hemispheric Commitment to Early Childhood Education”

• WE AFFIRM the commitment of States or pertinent authorities to promote quality professional preparation and ongoing development for early childhood education staff, teachers, and technical personnel.
“Hemispheric Commitment to Early Childhood Education” (Cartagena 2007)

- Develop legal, ethical, and regulatory frameworks.
- Increase quality comprehensive early childhood education.
- Establish early childhood comprehensive care and education policies.
- Coordinate educational sectors and institutions (nutrition, health, culture, and social welfare).
- Evaluation of children’s development.
- Training of teachers and other personnel ECCE.
- Encourage communication and dissemination policies.
- Participation of civil society.
- Formulate policies and educational, inter-institutional, and inter-sectoral coordination strategies for the successful transition.
Implementation
CIE/OEC Projects for 2009 - 2010

1. Policies and strategies for a successful transition.
2. Trends of transition policies in rural, indigenous and border communities.
3. Quality-based educational assessment: following-up the commitment to early childhood.
4. Expansion of the Hemispheric commitment to early education through technology and communication networks.
5. Consolidating ECCE in the Caribbean through technical cooperation with Chile.
PROJECT

“Consolidating early childhood education in the Caribbean through technical cooperation with Chile”

OAS-Government of Chile Memorandum of Understanding
Project “Quality-Oriented Evaluation of Education

One sub regional meeting in the Caribbean countries. (Guyana? Date...)

One sub regional meeting in Canada, EDI

One inter-American congress in will be held also in Paraguay, November 2010.
Project: “Expansion of hemispheric commitment to early childhood education through technology and communication networks” (Financed by CIDA/Canada)

The Ministers of Education Commitment proposes to “develop communication and dissemination policies” and exchange and promote early childhood advocacy and social participation experiences.
REQUEST TO MINISTERS

In view of the progress attained by member States in fulfilling the

HEMISPHERIC COMMITMENT TO EARLY CHILDHOOD, we request that Ministers commission CIE and the TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT start with the preparation and approval of an INTER AMERICAN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM.
Special Session of the Permanent Council of the OAS

“Importance of an increased investment to protect and promote integral care in early childhood”.

• Date: February 24th or 25th 2010.
• Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30pm.
Special Session of the Permanent Council of the OAS

Objectives:

- Enhance the protection and comprehensive attention of early childhood
- Share the scientific and state of the art knowledge
- Influence policies and practices that promote the fulfillment of the rights of children
- Promote the dialogue,
- Present the Inter-American Program of Comprehensive Attention for Early Childhood.