Early Childhood Education and Care

Laying strong foundations for lifelong social, economic and educational development

- **How can we ensure early childhood education and care for all?**
- **How can we expand access while ensuring quality?**
- **What policies make a difference in how well children do?**

The **Starting Strong Network** helps countries to develop effective and efficient approaches and good practice in the field of early childhood education and care (ECEC). It does so through its clearing house of new policy research, data and methodology development, workshops and by fostering contacts among professionals worldwide.

How can countries improve quality in early childhood education and care? Policy work on **Encouraging Quality in Early Childhood Education and Care** will investigate what defines quality, which policies can promote and enhance quality, and how such policies can be effectively put in place. This project focuses in particular on the challenge of moving from policy analysis to successful implementation.

Our new publication, **Starting Strong III** suggests five policy leavers that can have positive impacts on child development: Setting out quality goals and standards; Designing and implementing curriculum framework and guidelines; Improving staff qualifications, professional development and working conditions; Engaging families and communities; and Advancing data collection, research and monitoring.

Equitable access to quality early childhood education and care can strengthen the foundations of lifelong learning for all children and support the broad educational and social needs of families.

***DID YOU KNOW…** Over two-thirds of children aged between 3 and 4 years are enrolled in education in OECD countries.*

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