



**Organisation Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire**  
**World Organisation for Early Childhood Education**  
**Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar**

**Declaration from the OMEP international Conference and Workshop held at the Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria, August 3-7, 2009**

## **LEARNING TO LISTEN, LISTENING TO LEARN**

Listening is one of a child's basic rights. Articles 12 and 13 in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) reinstates that children have the right to be listened to and be heard, hence the theme of the conference and workshops.

Scholarly papers were presented on different sub-themes and workshop sessions were also held. The following issues were highlighted:

1. Learning starts from the conception as the result of interactive communication between people.
2. The well-being of children is dependant on quality in the early childhood education and care settings and the attachment to important adults; i.e. parents, teachers and relatives.
3. Children have the right to be listened to, to participate and to actively engage in matters that relate directly to them.
4. The world is facing great challenges and we need to work with Education for Sustainable Development to build a democratic and sustainable world.

### **Recommendations**

1. Adults should give unconditional respect to the rights of the children.
2. Children should be given ample opportunities to express themselves and to participate in everyday life, play and learning.
3. Parents should lay solid background and foundation for development of communication, including listening skills, in children right from early years.
4. Parents should create time to give quality attention to children.
5. Teachers should be dedicated and committed to their jobs by engaging children with care and love.
6. Teachers should be involved and active listeners to what is expressed by the children, trying to understand, support and challenge them in their learning.
7. The environment affects children deeply, and is an encouraging partner in learning. Corners, indoors and outdoors, should be created and equipped with books, toys and listening devices for children's play and learning.
8. Government should adequately fund Early Childhood Education through the training of teachers and care givers and the provision of Early Childhood Settings and Resource centres.

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