



Documentation of Innovative Pedagogical Approaches in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

UNESCO, UNICEF, ARNEC and OMEP launches a call for applications from programmes / practitioners who are interested in collaborating on documentation of innovative pedagogical approaches in ECCE

Are you or your organization implementing interesting, unique approaches in teaching and learning among young children? Or do you know of such programmes or sites? Are you committed to advancing the important principles of inclusion and equity in your work with young children and families?

Then we would like to hear from you!

Background Information

The UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (UNESCO Bangkok), with financial support from the Government of Japan, launched in January 2015 the project 'innovations for improving the equity and quality of early childhood care and education in Asia and the Pacific.' As part of this project, UNESCO Bangkok, the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) and Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA), the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC) and the World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP) will collaborate on the initiative to document in the form of reports and videos, various innovative and effective pedagogical approaches used in diverse ECCE settings in Asia and the Pacific region.

The project aims to contribute to enhancing the equity and quality of ECCE programmes in Asia and the Pacific that cater for children from birth to 8 years of age, by collecting evidence that (i) showcases examples of innovation that are unique to the region and, hence, (ii) provides early childhood educators or practitioners working with communities and parents with inspiration, ideas and guidance to implement innovative approaches in their own work with children and families.

Expected Project Outputs

- A set of written reports and videos that document approximately 10 innovative and effective pedagogical approaches and tools used in diverse ECCE settings in the countries of Asia and the Pacific.
- A regional report synthesising what constructs 'innovation' and 'effectiveness' in pedagogical approaches in early childhood, and analysing regional trends in innovation.
- An online guidebook based on the reports and videos documented, which will be an independent webportal accessible from the collaborators' websites and managed by ARNEC, to serve capacity building and clearing house purposes.

WHAT IS AN INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH? For the purpose of this Call an ‘innovative pedagogical approach’ could include, but is not limited to, the following:

- (i) An interactive approach to facilitating and extending children’s learning in a specific social, cultural or physical context;
- (ii) An approach whose implementation can strengthen the capacity of teachers, practitioners and/or caregivers;
- (iii) An approach whose process of implementation can be documented in order to inform others about how to incorporate/adapt such innovative approaches in their own contexts.

ADDITIONAL SELECTION CRITERIA. This project is underpinned by the following principles and applicants will need to demonstrate one or more of these principles in the innovation that will be documented:

- **Child-centredness** (child as a competent, active learner): Learning involves culturally-relevant, negotiated, respectful interactions between children and teachers / practitioners / caregivers;
- **Holistic development:** Learning incorporates a focus on linkages between socio-emotional; physical; cognitive; linguistic; spiritual development;
- **Equity:** Quality learning opportunities are available to all children without discrimination, especially those from marginalized groups;
- **Inclusiveness:** Learning responds to the diversity of needs among all learners;
- **Sustainability:** (i) The innovation presented is coherent with other activities of the programme and has potential for continued utilisation, and (ii) builds children’s skills to affect social change for now and in the future;
- **Cultural reflection/relevance:** Learning is rooted in the learners’ socio-cultural context and reflects traditional/indigenous knowledge that supports children’s development and learning.

AREAS OF INNOVATION: Cases may include innovations in (but are not limited to) the following areas:

- A focus on children’s interests and voices, engagement and/or participation in their own learning;
- Teacher professionalism (including professional development, implementing curriculum innovations, content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge, individual teacher commitment and passion);
- Parental / caregiver / family participation in supporting positive early learning experiences for children;
- Community participation in young children’s learning;
- Management and support systems that facilitate/encourage innovation in pedagogical approaches;
- Creative use of learning environments and technologies (information and communication technologies; local, indigenous technologies and resources);
- Innovative use of standards and metrics;
- Mobile services and flexible schedules adapted to specific learning contexts (e.g. emergencies, conflict zones, remote areas);
- Others.

SETTINGS WHERE INNOVATION TAKES PLACE: We would like to capture diverse contexts in which such innovations occur within the region, including policy-level; programme-level and classroom / community-level innovations:

- Formalized early childhood education centres

- Informal or home-based settings
- Low-resourced settings
- Large scale and/or policy-driven innovations
- Community-based settings
- Remote, hard-to-access, emergency or conflict settings

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Any individual, organisation or institution (including government ministries, local and international NGOs and the private sector) implementing an innovative pedagogical approach in ECCE in the Asia and Pacific region that fits the selection criteria outlined above is encouraged to apply. We especially seek applicants with a strong commitment to ECCE for young children, whose work has not been widely known in the past, in order to showcase new and innovative approaches.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR YOU AS A COLLABORATOR/PARTICIPANT TO THIS INITIATIVE?

If your proposed case/approach is chosen as part of this initiative, you will have the opportunity to:

- Highlight your work on the project collaborators' website managed by ARNEC and in the ARNEC newsletter *Connections* and other publications;
- Highlight your work at the international level, through presentations in regional and international events (e.g. forums, conferences, workshops) and publication in international journals;
- Contribute to the body of knowledge on innovative pedagogical approaches in the region.

WHAT IS MY ROLE AS A COLLABORATOR / APPLICANT ONCE SELECTED?

You will need to be prepared to:

- Participate (or find a member of the programme / site to participate) in the collection of all information required for documentation;
- Share detailed information, data, reports and other readings as needed to help the documentation process;
- Support identification of local video documenters and provide them access to day-to-day activities / relevant aspects of the innovation;
- Host visits and support data collection by the video documentation team during the period of November 2015 – January 2016;
- Follow ethical procedures in gathering information (obtain written consent from parents or guardians and children, to ensure understanding and agreement to be included in photographs and video footage once practitioners have explained/disclosed why the photographs and footage are being taken);
- Grant or obtain permission for the use of reports, images and audio/video recordings, in line with UNESCO's Open Access Policy and its adoption of the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 IGO (CC BY 3.0 IGO) license;
- Collaborate with the documentation review team through finalization of the documentation, providing feedback or comments as necessary;
- Take part in the dissemination of the innovation; this may involve presenting your innovation at regional and international ECCD events.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications must be submitted in English using the standard **Innovative Pedagogical Approaches Application Form**, attached separately. Applications should be emailed to the ARNEC Secretariat at: secretariat@arnec.net by **10 October 2015**.

Selection Process

Applications will be assessed by a panel of experts, composed of the co-convenors (UNESCO, UNICEF, ARNEC and OMEP) and external advisors, according to the criteria above. Selected initiatives will be notified before 31 October 2015.