

Quality Matters: The Golden Threads



Professor Chris Pascal

Centre for Research in Early Childhood



Young Children Matter: a 'Quiet' Revolution

- Significant shift in government policy internationally towards investment in high quality ECEC
- Acceptance of the critical nature of the early years of life and the societal benefits of investing in high quality early education and care from birth
- Government acceptance that quality of services is variable and sharp need to focus on the improvement of quality provision across sectors

Importance of quality

Research shows children who experience high quality early learning:

- achieve better outcomes in school and beyond
- develop better social, emotional and cognitive abilities necessary for life long learning

Poor quality provision adds no value in the long term and can damage children's development

High quality provision can change life chances

Key to better outcomes is high quality services for all children: 'Satisfactory won't do!'



Centre for Research in Early Childhood

What is quality?

Many factors contribute to high quality but certain elements have greatest impact on outcomes. Key identified priorities for action in new guidance:

Workforce: Graduate leader, NVQ 3 for most staff and all workforce accessing CPD

Practice: Clear learning goals, parental involvement, sustained shared thinking, warm relationships, individualised programmes

Content and Environment: Staff: child ratios, challenging, play based EYFS programmes, safe and stimulating environments



Centre for Research in Early Childhood

5 Golden Threads for Quality Evaluation and Improvement: The 'non-negotiables'

1. strengthening leadership for learning
2. developing practitioner learning
3. facilitating partnerships for learning and development
4. securing high quality environments for learning and development
5. supporting progress, learning and development



Centre for Research in Early Childhood