

About Early Years Blog

Diversity and social inclusion in European ECEC

The blog aims at a European audience of ECEC experts, such as teacher educators and trainers, policy makers, expert teachers and researchers. Central topics are high-quality practices in ECEC, valuing diversity and multilingualism, supporting disadvantaged children and promoting equality.

A bridge between research and practice

Although there is a growing research base on what works, these insights are not yet adopted in practice on a large scale. Our bloggers aim to make scientific research accessible and attractive. They will encourage you to reflect on current practices and innovations, and to support your inquiring and innovative attitude.

This blog is the fruit of a European collaboration between:

Odisee Belgium | **UCLL** Belgium | **Thomas More** Belgium | **Universiteit Utrecht** Netherlands | **CED groep** Netherlands | **Fontys** Netherlands | **ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa** Portugal | **Instituto Politécnico do Porto** Portugal | **Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa** Portugal | **University of Warsaw** Poland | **Comenius Institute** Poland | **Maria Grzegorzewska University** Poland



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A research-based blog for
early years experts in Europe



Tips for users

How you may use our blog messages to enhance reflective practices in your team.

We propose the following approach. Feel free to elaborate your own alternative.

1. Explore



Formulate a question that is relevant for your practice (e.g. *How to have a good conversation with parents?*). Formulate your question in a positive way, instead of focusing on what is not going well. Use blog messages to gain background knowledge about the central theme of your question (*cooperation with parents*) and explore subthemes.

2. Tell



Gather your team. Ask team members to share concrete stories about valuable experiences within the central theme (e.g. *stories about good*

conversations with parents that contributed to a good cooperation with parents). Listen carefully to each other and search together for success factors and personal qualities that made the positive experiences possible. *What made them good conversations and what made these conversations contribute to the cooperation?*

3. Imagine



Together you create images of the ideal future, based on the best experiences of the past. Let your imagination run wild: what is the ideal image? *What would the cooperation between you and your parents look like?* What would you do and what wouldn't you do? Formulate this in short and powerful sentences.

Now you can compare your ideal image with the blog's recommendations. Possibly, there is overlap or maybe this leads you to alter the ideal picture.

4. Design



Look for ways to increase your chances of realizing your ideal images. Who can you involve? What resources do you have at our disposal? How can you renew your way of working to make your dreams come true?

5. Realize



Time for action! You come up with a concrete, first, small step. Getting in motion is more important than detailing a step-by-step plan. When one gets into action, one automatically sees

further (new) possibilities, so you really don't have to come up with a whole plan yet.

6. Check



Go back to the initial theme that was set in step 1. Have you formulated an answer to the theme? And what makes you think that this answer can work?

7. Act



After completing these steps everybody gets to work with the first concrete action(s). Share your experiences with each other, with a focus on the positive experiences, during lunch, coffee breaks, team meetings,... Finally you take the next small step, and one more,...