

## Q's and A's about the OECD

### What is the OECD?

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international, intergovernmental organization formed in 1960. Today there are 30 member countries. The OECD, with headquarters in France, is funded by its member countries. The work of the OECD focuses on economic and social policies and "promoting public understanding of the benefits and challenges of global economic and social change".

"The OECD's way of working consists of a highly effective process that begins with data collection and analysis and moves on to collective discussion of policy. Mutual examination by governments, multilateral surveillance and peer pressure to conform or reform are at the heart of OECD effectiveness." (OECD web site - *The Work of the OECD*)

### What does the OECD say about governments promoting successful child care policy?

OECD reports inform us that in many countries:

- substantial public funding is provided to support a quality child care system because the early years are increasingly viewed as the first step in lifelong learning and a key component of a successful educational, social, and family policy agenda; and
- strategies are in place to improve the recruitment, training and remuneration of early childhood professionals.

Based on extensive research and in-depth study of the state of child care in 12 countries, the OECD concluded that there are eight key elements necessary for governments to promote successful child care policy (e.g., a universal approach to access, substantial public investment in services, appropriate training and working conditions for all staff, a participatory approach to quality improvement).

### Where can you get more information on the OECD?

OECD web site: [www1.oecd.org](http://www1.oecd.org)

Parent Voices Resource Kit: [www.parentvoices.ca](http://www.parentvoices.ca) → Advocacy Tools → Topic #3 "Learning lessons from successful models at home and abroad"

Childcare Resource and Research Unit: Executive Summary *Starting Strong – Report on OECD Thematic Review* <http://www.childcarecanada.org/pubs/bn/startingstrong.html>

#### OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES:

Australia	Germany	Luxembourg	Spain
Austria	Greece	Mexico	Sweden
Belgium	Hungary	Netherlands	Switzerland
Canada	Iceland	New Zealand	Turkey
Czech Republic	Ireland	Norway	United Kingdom
Denmark	Italy	Poland	United States
Finland	Japan	Portugal	
France	Korea	Slovak Republic	

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