

International Workshop on

An Integrative Approach to Early Childhood Development and Education

*In cooperation with
The Center for the Study of Child Development,
University of Haifa,
Haifa, Israel
November 4 – 27, 2014*

Participants from 2011 in a team building exercise



BACKGROUND

It is widely accepted that early childhood is the most formative period in a person's life. The early years influence and determine the ability to function as a mature, secure, independent and creative adult and lay the foundation for studies in school. It is, therefore, very important to have well trained professionals working in early childhood education and care.

Early childhood education and care has different needs than that of primary school. The child between three and six learns through his senses. He must have the opportunity to play, solve problems, make decisions, and ask questions through experiencing his environment together with his peers. The role of the educator and child care provider is to encourage and mediate as the children learn by themselves.

In order to meet the challenges in achieving the Millennium Goal of Education For All in preschool and primary education, MASHAV is engaged in international development assistance through one of its core extensions, the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC), located in Haifa.

In cooperation with the Center for the Study of Child Development at the University of Haifa, this practical workshop introduces educators, child care workers, and teacher trainers to the knowledge and skills needed to build both a stimulating and supportive educational environment, and an integrative study program. The main concepts, values, skills and activities to meet the developmental needs of children are included, while confidence and expertise in the professionals in their roles as mediators and educators are also created. The program is planned to provide in-depth exposure to innovative, holistic and integrative programs and knowledge of early childhood development.

OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Through introductory lectures, professional study visits, observation, workshops, and discussions of applicability to local realities, participants will be exposed to the following:

- Early Childhood Education and Care in Israel
- Attitudes and priorities in early childhood education
- Developmental needs of children from birth to 6 years
- Main psychological theories of development and learning
- Building of supportive and stimulating learning environments
- Alternative ways and strategies for instructing – music, art, storytelling, etc.
- A variety of early child development settings and kindergartens working according to different approaches and intervention strategies
- Empowering strategies as professional trainers
- Evaluation programs of children's progress and needs
- The role of the child care provider, teacher and the teacher trainer
- Supervision, monitoring and evaluation of training programs
- Interventions and services provided to children with special needs
- Written and presented a project proposal to be implemented in their own settings.

TARGET POPULATION:

This training welcomes men and women with leadership qualities open to new ideas and who see themselves as agents of change. They should be currently employed in the field of education or child care and working in early childhood development. All participants are expected to have at least 3 years' experience.



מדינת ישראל



STATE OF ISRAEL



MCTC
The Golda Meir Mount Carmel

SCHOLARSHIP FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS INCLUDES:

Studies: Lectures, field visits, written study material and use of the library, internet and free Wi-Fi.

Room and Board: Two students per room (linen, hot water, heating/air-conditioning), all meals included and laundry facilities on the premises.

Cultural and Social Activities: Excursions to historical and religious sites.

Health Services: Medical insurance covers medical services and hospitalization in case of emergency. It does not cover the treatment of chronic or serious diseases, specific medications taken by the participant on a regular basis, dental care, eyeglasses, or the period of pregnancy. The Health Authorities recommend that visitors to Israel make sure they have been inoculated against tetanus in the last ten years.

Participants Are Responsible For All Other Expenses.

Travel: The scholarship does not cover flight tickets to and from Israel. International travel fares are the responsibility of the candidate or his/her sponsoring organization.

Passport and Visa: Passports must be valid for the period of the Workshop and include an entry visa into Israel. Two additional passport-size photographs are also required for various documents.

Booking: The date and flight number of the booking to Israel must be confirmed to assure arrival before the opening of the Workshop, on November 4, 2014.

Weather: The Workshop will take place in autumn, when temperatures may range from 15° C to 20° C.

Clothing: Participants are advised to bring suitable clothing and comfortable low-heeled shoes for excursions and study visits.

Personal Insurance: Participants are advised to insure any valuable personal belongings, since MCTC takes no responsibility for them.

HOW TO APPLY:

You can find the application form on our website: www.mctc.org.il

****Application forms should be sent to the Israeli Diplomatic and/or Consular Representatives serving the applicant's country. They are to be submitted no later than September 14th, 2014.** An additional copy of the application must be sent to Ms. Sarah Wilner (sarah@mctc.org.il) and Ms. Anna Andrachnik (anna@mctc.org.il) at MCTC.

ABOUT MASHAV

MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation - at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was founded in late 1957, and is responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of the State of Israel's development cooperation programs.

ABOUT MCTC

The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC) was established in 1961 to assist in the training of women engaged in community work in the newly emerging states in Africa and Asia.

Since the establishment of MCTC, over 18500 participants from more than 150 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Middle East, Oceania and the Caribbean have attended almost 630 capacity building programs and workshops, and 28 International Conferences for Women Leaders, conducted in Israel. In addition, MCTC conducts between 20-30 institutional capacity building programs in partner countries throughout each year, for hundreds more trainees throughout the developing world.

MCTC focuses on three areas of study: Community Development, Early Childhood Education and Organization and Management of Microenterprises, all with gender as a cross-cutting issue. In each training program there are up to 30 women and men from 10 to 27 countries. Usually two workshops are conducted concurrently in different languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian or Arabic).

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The Center for the Study of Child Development at the University of Haifa includes a group of around 10 internationally leading senior researchers and their 80 graduate and postdoctoral students, who are devoted to the study of children's development, with a particular emphasis on their emotional health and well-being. The Center's experts focus on basic science questions regarding the nature of socio-emotional development across the life span and across cultures, and its implications and applications for the lives of children and their families (more about the Center see <http://hevro.haifa.ac.il/~child-dev/>). The Center's experts have also established a one-year International Master's Program in Applied Child Development for Developing Countries with the goal of improving the lives of children at risk around the world. The MA program will be taught in English and is scheduled to launch in October 2014 (for more detail see <http://hevro.haifa.ac.il/~child-dev/index.php/academic-programs>).

The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center



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