

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN
JUNTA NACIONAL DE JARDINES INFANTILES (JUNJI), CHILE
AND
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT- CEECD –
UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL, CANADA.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Recognizing the mutual benefits that can be achieved through international collaboration programs, Junta Nacional de Jardines Infantiles (hereinafter “JUNJI”) and the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development (hereinafter “CEECD”) commit in this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter “MOU”) to join efforts to create, enhance and stimulate mutual collaboration among both organizations aimed at improving the quality of life of early childhood children, and expanding the opportunities for comprehensive development in the most vulnerable boys and girls.
- 1.2 JUNJI, a public institution in charge of enforcing the Government of Chile’s commitment to promote early childhood education, places special emphasis on strengthening bonds of collaboration and cooperation with other national and international relevant institutions to support the new Social Protection system for early childhood in Chile.
- 1.3 The Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development –CEECD- is a *Consortium* composed of international Early Childhood researchers and experts, service providers and planners, NGO’s, Canada’s government entities, Universities and Aboriginal Organizations.
- 1.4 The Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development (CEECD) of the University of Montreal in Canada seeks to foster and improve dissemination of international scientific knowledge on the social and emotional development of young children, as well as policies and services that influence this development. Thus it is essential to establish networks, links and bridges aimed at the generation and exchange of scientific knowledge in the area of early education.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

GENERAL OBJECTIVE:

The general objective of this MOU is to establish the framework for a relationship of collaboration and development among the Parties hereto (CEECD and JUNJI) on matters associated to early childhood education quality in Chile. The Parties specifically agree to work together in the development of joint strategies and specific activities aimed at materializing the objectives specified below, with a view to enhance comprehensive development alternatives for pre-school boys and girls in Chile. This proposal is part of the need to boost and foster positive synergy among the various organizations in the continent that are working to improve young children’s quality of life and expand the opportunities for the comprehensible development of the most vulnerable boys and girls.

In consideration of this objective, Junta Nacional de Jardines Infantiles –JUNJI- of the Government of Chile is a strategic ally for various reasons:

- Chile is a leading country in Latin America in terms of having the institutional framework and fulfilling the quality requirements – acknowledged by experts – to provision early education.
- It is committed to enhance and boost the World Consultative Group's Latin American Network.
- It is the Institution that regulates preschool education in Chile
- It is in charge of heading a major process of change in Chile, an initiative that is held in high regard by the rest of the continent because, for the first time, Chile has placed early childhood protection and education at the core of its public policy.
- It is in charge of considerably extending the public provision of quality early education for the more vulnerable sectors of the country.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

The specific objective of the MOU is to disseminate major topics included the Early Childhood Development Encyclopedia in Spanish, namely: Aggression; Attachment; Importance of Early Childhood Development; Language Development and Literacy; and Prevention of Child Maltreatment.

3.0 COOPERATIONS

3.1 JUNJI

Junta Nacional de Jardines Infantiles is hereby obliged to:

I.- Disseminate the following texts:

Understanding the significance of translating the entire Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development into Spanish, JUNJI will contribute with the translation and dissemination – in a first stage – of the following topics:

Aggression
Attachment
Importance of early childhood development
Language development and literacy
Prevention of child maltreatment

To this aim, it will illustrate, facilitate and disseminate knowledge on the different sections of each topic, i.e.: According to Experts and Syntheses of Expert Texts, all of which will be included in a complete Folder, as well as the Key messages for parents.

The aforementioned topics have been prioritized for 2008 because they are considered to be crucial to and respond to Chile's present situation needs. The country registers high rates of child abuse, hence it is essential to focus on these topics. In addition, the availability of additional information on the importance of early childhood development, based on the evidence provided in the Encyclopedia, are additional tools to endorse and sustain the current Government's decision to place early childhood protection at the core of its public policy. We have also detected that we have important deficiencies in the area of language and reading, therefore enhancing and strongly boosting this area will contribute to improve the early education being imparted.

Furthermore, these texts in Spanish duly credited to the Encyclopedia, the Centre of Excellence and JUNJI, will be disseminated in JUNJI's web site, in the section corresponding to the Encyclopedia and will be sent to CINDE to be disseminated in the

World Consultative Group's Network for the Care and Development of Early Childhood in Latin America.

II.- Bulletins and *Key messages for the parents (on Parenting Skills)* drawn up by the Centre of Excellence

Through this Collaboration Agreement, the Centre of Excellence hereby authorizes JUNJI to use these Bulletins for information and explicatory purposes, as well as the information (questions and answers) contained in the Key Messages for the Parents, based on the information provided in the Encyclopedia, so that they may be incorporated to the information for parents drawn up by JUNJI. We find this material of great interest because of its didactic design and preparation, and its focus on the importance of supporting parents to achieve the development of boys and girls.

3.2 THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The CEECD is hereby obliged to facilitate the following for dissemination:

I.- The Contents of the Early Childhood Development Encyclopedia:

1. ***The scientific knowledge of*** 230 Early Childhood international experts presented in *230 articles*, written by these experts for the Encyclopedia.
2. ***The work and knowledge of the Centre of Excellence's experts committees***, one of which is the Early Childhood Research Committee. The second is the Services and Policies Committee in charge of analyzing international research on practices that proved to be effective as Early Childhood services. Each Committee is composed of experts on infants' different age periods; they invite selected international experts to write for the Encyclopedia. (See the Centre's web site www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca "Structure").
3. ***The syntheses of articles by international experts***, which address three questions on each topic:
 - A. How important is it?
 - B. What do we know? (based on scientific evidence),
 - C. What can be done? (based on programs and services that have been evaluated)
4. ***Key Messages for the Parents***; which are simple answers to key questions presented in a usable format for parents, based on the evidence contained in the Encyclopedia.
5. ***The Bulletins of the Centre of Excellence*** revisit a topic from the Encyclopedia and include an extensive synthesis on the papers from the expert and two summaries on recent research. Practitioners who are familiar with the practices in their work with the infants comment on the results of the research with their critical and enlightening views.

II.- Research Study Consultancies.

Here, the Centre proposes to provide JUNJI with all the contacts with researchers, experts and organizations with whom it maintains exchange and collaboration relations, both in Canada and internationally, so that JUNJI and its associates can have the support and reference points to carry out the research studies.

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 In order to undertake and fully comply with the objectives contained herein, the Parties hereto will engage in mutual cooperation and designate a Coordinator to administrate the conduction of jointly agreed activities.
- 4.2 The expressed will to collaborate shall be circumscribed to the material and human capacities available in each institution.
- 4.3 The specific details of all jointly undertaken activities shall be outlined, on each occasion, in a separate Letter of Agreement, signed by both Parties.
- 4.4 Any Letter of Agreement contemplated in this MOU will address the following matters:
- a) The definition of each Party's responsibilities with regard to the different agreed activities.
 - b) The program defined for the development of specific activities.
 - c) Resources associated to the undertaking of the projects and activities, and
 - d) Any other matter considered necessary for the efficient fulfillment of the activity.
- 4.5 The Parties hereto will review and evaluate the activities under this MOU and in accordance with the respective practices.

5.0 TERM AND EFFECTS OF THE MOU

- 5.1 This MOU will become effective from the moment it is signed by both Parties and shall remain in effect until 2010, at which time the Parties will express their will to maintain it.
- 5.2 The purpose of this MOU is to serve as an aide-memoire for the benefit of both Parties and to provide a framework for continued conversations among them for the implementation of joint strategies related to the contributions mentioned above.

In witness whereof, the representatives of Junta Nacional de Jardines Infantiles (JUNJI) and the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development – CEECD, have executed the present Memorandum, in two copies, in French and Spanish, the texts of which are identical and equally authentic..

This Collaboration Agreement has been signed by the representatives Maria Estela Ortiz –JUNJI- and Richard Tremblay –CEECD- on the 11th June, 2008 at the Montreal University.