



Role of Parents in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

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Abstract: As per article 21(A), the state shall aim to provide free and compulsory education to all the children in the age group of 6-14 years and the directive principles of state policy aims to provide Early Childhood Care and Education. Early childhood Care and Education helps a child in the development of group enculturation and good habits. It helps in the psychological and mental development of the child. It affects the learning outcome of the child. It is a diverse term that includes education, health, care, nutrition and support. ECCE develops learning in students which is inaugurated through play. Play method helps the students to develop an understanding, meaning and importance of education. Play activities include music, art, sports, singing, dancing, rhymes etc. Parents play a major role in ECCE. Teachers help in providing ECCE to the children by making use of well organized curriculum, innovative activities, curricular and extra curricular activities and educational methods which can be easily understood by the children.

Key words: Early childhood care and education, children, teachers , parents, characteristics

Introduction:

ECCE refers to the branch of education that focuses upon imparting care and education to children from birth to 6 years. The rate of development during first six years of life are fast than other stages of development. So these 6 years of life are very critical. ECCE plays an important role in the learning and development of children by providing a healthy and friendly atmosphere in this stage of life. Parents also play an important role in providing a healthy and stimulating environment to the child.

NPE (1986) and NCF (2005) also provides a very great importance to ECCE. According to NPE, early childhood refers to the children of age groups 0 to 6. NPE informs about the demerits of using formal methods of teaching at early childhood stage. It gives importance to the playway and activity- based methods. As per NCF, the knowledge provided during the pre- school period play a very important role in the development of character of child and have a great impact on later education of children. ECCE is required to provide care, opportunities and knowledge for all round development of children.

ECCE is called by different educationists by different names like Kindergarten schools, nursery schools, crèches etc. These are expected to provide care, guidance, encouragement and education to pre- school children outside their homes and they work for the betterment of children before their entry into primary schools.

NEED AND IMPORTANCE:

ECCE is required due to the various reasons:

- Working parents need ECCE institutions that can look after their children.
- Preschool years develop creativity in children.
- ECCE develops skills of analyzing, investigating and enquiring in children.
- ECCE develops physical, social, mental, emotional and behavioural needs of children.
- ECCE develops a strong base for primary education and reduces loss, back outs and stasis in primary education.

- Good habits and moral values can be developed through exciting and fun playing with a purpose.
- Children can have a quality education and a continuing environment.
- Through the development of preschools, educationally and economically disadvantaged families may be alleviated.
- ECCE helps to motivate children to learn through interesting and educational useful play activities.
- ECCE helps to build a sense of security and children's self-esteem. It helps to develop talents and skills.
- Thus, ECCE provides a foundation for a better life through out.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Make sure every children is valued, respected, feels safe and develops a positive personality.
- Provide a good foundation for the physical and motor development of each individual child.
- Enable children to communicate effectively and develop a welcoming and expressive attitude.
- Promote growth and integration.
- Promote intellectual curiosity and develop an understanding of the world around them.
- Establish true unity between the external environment and home life.
- Provide research, review and testing opportunities.
- Increase development of intellectual skills, social skills and positive thinking.
- Create beautiful experiences and encourage creative learning processes.
- Absorb the culture, develop appropriate behaviour, human values, respect and love for neighbours.
- Making the transition from home to kindergarten, from schools to education.
- To help children express, understand, accept and control one's opinions and emotions.
- To develop children's artistic and inventive sense.
- To ensure a healthy, happy and discreet life.
- To help children involve in games and sports and pay attention to other activities and rights.
- Ensure continuous medical supervision.
- Experience small- scale social life where children work and play together.

ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN ECCE

During the first years of life, the child is very close to his /her parents. Parents especially the mother is the first teacher of the child. It is the liability of parents to look after the child. This does not mean to provide hygienic food and good clothes to the child but they should play an important role in the upbringing of the child.

PARENTS AS TEACHERS:

The way of parenting is changing rapidly. Old songs, tales, plays and home-made toys for parents and children grandparents , who were often used at home are now problems of the past. The traditional way of living in a joint family is disintegrating quickly. People mostly live in nuclear families these days. In joint family, in joint family, children used to play, eat together and learn from everyone others (peer learning). There is no such opportunity in nuclear family. Therefore parents have to use game inherited activities from our rich cultural heritage, stories and songs related to children development. Thus the child is sent to study indirectly through interactions with family members everyday. Teachers and parents must work together and create conditions helpful for the child's growth and development. Parents should take into account that children learn while playing. They should not place a heavy burden on children. They should motivate their children to learn. Parents should choose interesting passages in order to help their children to learn. Even if there is no time, it is their responsibility to spend quality time with their children. Children love to listen, so parents should tell them stories. It develops comprehension, creativity and language. Children are happy when their parents or other family members are around and sing and play with them. Parents as well as family play a main role in developing good manners in children. Parents can motivate their children to learn at home in the following ways:

- Let the child speak and talk with them.
- Give full attention to your children.
- Make children feel loved and protected.
- Chant songs, deliver poems and tell tales to children.

- Play with your child as a friend.
- Give your child the right guidance and avoid criticism.

Be patient and listen to them.

- Don't compare your child to others.
- Be an example to your children and answer their questions and encourage them
- Don't even scold your child.
- Provide a peaceful environment in your home. Thus parents are responsible not only for the upbringing of their children but also for their first education of life.

CONCLUSION:

ECCE is the field of education that aims to impart knowledge of various lesson plans and academic concepts to children upto the age of six. The first six years in the life of a child are very important as they form the base in the growth and development of personality of child. Parents play a very crucial role during these six years of life of their children. Parents are the first teacher of their children and they should play a great role in the growth, development and care of their children. They should spend quality time with their children and play with them. They should not overburden their children but should motivate them to learn by playing, narrating stories, delivering poems and singing songs with them.

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