



The
Institute for
Democratic
Education



Early Childhood Education for the 21st Century

The ECE Department of the Institute for Democratic Education



We cannot know what knowledge, tools and skills our children will need in the future. But we may assume that if we imbue them with creativity, curiosity, initiative and social skills, they will be able to acquire whatever is needed to cope better with future challenges.

These qualities can already be instilled at the age when personality is shaped, by means of 21st century early childhood education. Rather than focusing on imparting knowledge, this type of education serves as a catalyst for learning, curiosity and cooperation.



Children playing in Ghanaian kindergarten



Ran with Mr. Jacob Kor, Director-General of the Ghana Education Service



Liberian President, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, exploring ECE training plans

We are working to develop, implement and disseminate innovative pedagogies and strategies that nurture individuals and their place in society. Together with national and local policy makers, organizations, communities and educational institutions, we are working to formulate and implement policies.



What we offer

Consultancy for educational policy makers

We offer help in reorganizing the education system to adapt it to the 21st century – to the skills and demands of today and tomorrow. We work with policy makers to formulate a shared vision; we build strategic work plans and accompany managerial levels as they work with the educational staff in the field.

Consultancy for municipalities and organizations

Together with municipalities, organizations, communities or private educational networks we build models of early childhood education adapted to their unique character, keeping in mind local challenges such as strengthening ties with the environment, the community or the ethnic culture, municipal branding, or attracting strong populations.



Noah's Ark

This is a flexible network of 'lighthouse' ECE settings that serve as a positive role model for the entire community. The initiative functions as 'an open-source' community, encouraging educators worldwide to develop and share innovative educational methodologies and applications, with the aim of encouraging groundbreaking ways of thinking about early childhood education.

Adolescent girls at risk study ECE

This is a training program in early childhood education for adolescent girls at risk. The program empowers the girls, instilling them with a sense of self-efficacy and connection with the community and helps pave their way to higher education. The program enables development of life skills, the ability to cope, and acquisition of a sense of optimism about the future.



An educational project held in an Israeli-Arab town

Adapting the physical environment for advanced ECE settings

Joint work with design colleges, building and conservation departments, architects and the children themselves to adapt the structure and appearance of the ECE setting to its spirit and vision. Creating a new environment that will encourage the children's creativity and curiosity, help them form social ties, and give them personal space for self-expression.

Conferences workshops and lectures

We hold conferences and workshops ranging from three to seven days of focused work on educational innovation in the spirit of 21st century ECE. We arrange the conference content and provide the experts who deliver it. We also lecture to various forums and attend conferences as guest lecturers.

Who is behind the program?



Ran Cohen Harounoff

Ran Cohen Harounoff is the ECE Department Co- Director at the Institute for Democratic Education. An entrepreneur in education, he has established schools, a network of preschools and ECE training programs, and is currently a consultant on reforms in ECE at the national and municipal levels both in Israel and elsewhere.

Ran has been involved with ECE his entire adult life. He has also written six children's books, a music album for children and two children's shows based on his books.



The Institute for Democratic Education

The institute is a non-profit organization, the goal of which is to lead processes of change and inject innovation into the education system and the local community. The Institute has 20 years of experience in advancing education and society, implementing educational models, providing academic training for educational initiatives and adapting new tools for measurement and assessment.

Our partners

Ministry of Education, Israel

Ministry of Education, Ghana

Ministry of Education,
The Republic of Liberia

Association for the
Advancement of ground
breaking Thinking-
Dov Frohman

Mashav-Center for
International Cooperation,
Ministry for Foreign
Affairs, Israel

Beracha Foundation

EDP Foundation Holland

Kibbutzim College
of Education

Tel Aviv University

The David Yellin Academic
College of Education

Shenkar, Engineering,
Design & Art. College

H-Farm Association

ELEM, Youth in Distress



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