



Recommendations of the First Annual Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education

The Impact of Promoting Quality Practices on Implementation in Early Childhood Education Institutions

26 – 28 Jan. 2025

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The First Annual Early Childhood Conference 2025 was held on January 26–28, featuring seven sessions conducted across the two conference days. The conferences resulted in the following key recommendations:

Key Recommendations of the Ministry of Social Development

- Enhance the Role of the MSD: Increasing cooperation between the MSD, represented by the Child Protection Center, and early education institutions to
- ensure the provision of integrated and comprehensive services for children and their families.
- **Expand the training of specialized staff** to be capable of addressing the psychological and social needs of children.
- **Involve families and the community:** through awareness programmes that encourage collaboration between various institutions and families.
- **Intensify research and studies:** To understand the needs of children in early education and develop appropriate policies to meet them.

Key Recommendations of the Children's Rights Commissioner

- **Enhance the role of national monitoring mechanisms** to ensure their outcomes align with human rights indicators to achieve best practices in promoting and protecting the right to education in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Key Recommendations of the Children's Health Consultants

To overcome hidden hunger among our children, monitor nutrition, implement general health interventions, conduct awareness campaigns, develop policies and research, engage in community interventions, and foster collaborative efforts.

- **Set specific times** for children to use devices.
- **Encourage alternative activities** and promote joint activities.

Key Recommendations for Curricula

- **Adopt curricula that promote values**, ethics, love for the nation, and pride in its heritage.
- **Expand sports and arts programmes in curricula:** to promote health, creativity, and introduce culinary arts with a focus on planning, organization, and nutritional awareness.
- **Develop communication skills:** by adding lessons in public speaking, protocol, and organizing workshops to improve public speaking and social interaction skills.
- **Introduce a curriculum on world cultures:** Develop a curriculum that introduces students to different cultures to enhance understanding of globalization and tolerance, through cultural studies and workshops in the form of virtual trips.
- Provide continuous training programmes for teachers to effectively teach the new curricula.

- Involve parents and the local community in school activities to deepen cultural and sports awareness.

Key Recommendations for Institutional Work

- **Unify the vision and goals within the organization** and align the objectives of each department with the organization's overall goals to ensure integration and consistency.
- **Coordinate administrative and educational processes** through effective interdepartmental mechanisms to ensure smooth operations.
- **Simplify internal procedures** to avoid complexities and duplication of work.
- **Use digital communication tools** to facilitate coordination between teams and improve work efficiency.
- **Create** a unified internal evaluation system.

Key Recommendations for Disability and Autism Centers

- Increase the employment of disabled graduates in local community institutions.
- Increase the number of TV programmes and awareness campaigns about disability centers in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the services they provide.
- Raise cultural and media awareness by conducting training workshops for the early detection of autism spectrum disorder symptoms.
- Conduct training courses in family counseling for families and children with autism spectrum disorders to educate them about the early symptoms of autism spectrum disorder.

Key Recommendations for Improving Language Programmes

- **Develop** educational applications specifically aimed at enhancing language skills in innovative ways.
- **Enhance language interaction** using digital applications and tools to achieve better educational outcomes.
- **Integrate assistive technology** into educational curricula.

Key Recommendations of the National Employment Programme

Adopt the Bahrain National Employment Programme.

- **Invest in establishing kindergartens** and schools to sustainably improve outcomes and create good citizens.
- **Benefit from the Ministry of Labour's programmes** in preparing teachers, which is reflected in improving performance.
- **Select curricula that focus on values** and enhance Bahraini belonging and citizenship.

Key Recommendations of Legislation and Legal Opinion

- **An appeal to the Bahraini legislator** to include sexual harassment of persons with disabilities among cases of danger.
- **Develop** disaster management plans and strategies.
- **Provide essential educational resources** in collaboration with organizations and charitable associations, and ensure justice in the distribution of aid.
- **Train educational staff and provide continuing training** in preparation for any crisis.
- **Protect educational institutions** and establish an international mechanism to prevent the use of schools as military barracks.

Key Recommendations in Digital Education and Using AI

- **Integrate assistive technology** into all curricula to train teachers on using digital tools.
- **Train teachers** to use digital tools.
- **Develop training applications** to enhance language skills innovatively.
- **Integrate artificial intelligence** into education in a safe manner.
- **Integrate ethical artificial intelligence** to ensure the prevention of unethical AI.
- **Achieving exchange between** generative artificial intelligence practices and non-generative artificial intelligence.

Key Recommendations in Cybersecurity

- **Awareness and Monitoring:** Talk to children about the risks of the internet and the importance of not sharing personal information, in addition to regularly monitoring their online activities.
- **Setting Usage Time Limits:** Make a serious effort to set time limits for using electronic devices, while ensuring enough time is dedicated to outdoor activities.
- **Using Security Tools:** Use antivirus and anti-malware programs, and enable parental control settings on devices.
- **Creating a Safe Environment:** Ensure children use devices in shared spaces, such as the living room, and emphasize selecting age-appropriate content based on their actual age group.

- **Teach children:** teach them to recognize good and bad content online and encourage them to report anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- **Encourage parental involvement** in children's digital activities to strengthen communication.

Key Recommendations from Montessori and Psychology Experts

- **Activating Montessori and play-based learning** to develop higher-order thinking skills.
- Adopting a routine based on freedom of choice and diverse activities, and incorporating problem-solving strategies to encourage exploration of different perspectives.
- **Meet the child's needs** for acceptance and love.
- Make the child feel competent and accomplished.
- Provide a role model for the child to grow healthily.

Key Recommendations in Giftedness and Talented Experts

- **Include talent detection programmes** in preschool curricula for their positive impact on increasing knowledge.