



Organisation Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire
World Organisation for Early Childhood Education
Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar

To OMEP Members – Interviewers

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OMEP World Project on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)



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Interviewing children about the OMEP 2010 Congress logo

OMEP has appointed Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as the major project for the next coming years. The OMEP World Assembly in Lagos in August 2009 started this project as one way for OMEP members and countries to work with children on ESD, and at the same time giving it a worldwide spreading.

The aim of the project is to collect information about young children's thoughts, comments and understanding of the OMEP 2010 Congress logo and to enhance the awareness of ESD among OMEP members. ESD is a tricky concept, not yet recognised or well known.

The National OMEP Committee will appoint project leader(s) who will guide you and give support to you. As this is a coordinated OMEP World Project, participants must work within the same framework. They must use the Interview Guide, which contains guidelines and interview questions. It is very important that the interviews are made in a similar fashion. Thus, we can compare and bring forward answers from children from all over the world.

Interviewing children (1-8 years) is a skill, where the interviewer must concentrate on *Listening to the child/ren*, trying very hard to understand what the child is talking about. There are no right answers to the questions put, not even an easy Yes or No.

Preparation

When choosing children for the interviews, make sure to follow accepted national standards for research with children, including requirements for (a) obtaining institutional approval, where necessary, (b) obtaining parent and child consent, and (c) maintaining confidentiality /anonymity. It would be better to get fewer responses than to have more responses without adequate ethical considerations.

Choose between showing the child/ren the picture on paper or on a computer screen.

Arrange for a suitable, quiet place. Interviews can be arranged with individuals, pairs of, or smaller groups of children. You can use paper & pen, audio or video recordings, taking ethical considerations into account. Your national project leader can support you on Method.

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Introduction:

Tell the child/ren that you have got a picture that belongs to a project and that you are very interested in talking with the child/ren about the picture. You are not to bring up the words or the concept of Sustainable Development in advance. We are interested in the children's actual comments on the picture *without directing them in any special way*.

If you are using a tape/video recorder, which will be very helpful, you could let the children get acquainted with the technical advice before you start the actual interview.

Interview questions:

Thank you for talking with me and sharing your opinions about this picture.

- Please look at this picture. Tell me about this picture. **What is going on? Tell me more. What can you see in the picture?**
- Follow up question: **Why are they doing this?**
- **Anything more** you want to tell me about the picture?
- **Anything else** that has to do with the things we have talked about?
- For some children, when relevant, elaborate on:
Have you heard of Sustainable Development? Do you know what it means?

Thank you for your time. Now I am going to write down all your answers and send them to the world organisation OMEP. Please, just let me make sure:

- Age and sex, name or make-up name
- Individual, pair or group interviews
- Date and time used
- Place (e.g. preschool/home/other)
- Setting (rural/urban/other)

After the interviews

- Write down all the answers as exactly as possible as they were put by the child/ren
- Tell shortly about background data, number of girls, boys, age, place et cetera
- Please, mark some meaningful or expressive quotes
- If relevant, add a photo or drawing, (make sure you have permission from the child)
- Send your report to your project leader **not later than December 31, 2009**

Read more about ESD:

Pramling Samuelsson, I. & Kaga, Y. (Eds.) (2008) *The contribution of early childhood education to a sustainable society*, Paris, UNESCO.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001593/159355e.pdf>

The Gothenburg Recommendations on Education for Sustainable Development (2008)

<http://www.chalmers.se/gmv>



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