



Bambini in Europa
Barn i Europa
Børn i Europa
Children in Europe
Copii în Europa
Dzieci w Europie
Enfants d'Europe
Infância a Europa
Infância en Europa
Infância na Europa
Kinder in Europa
Kinderen in Europa
Παιδιά στην Ευρώπη

Children in Scotland
every child - every childhood

Media Release

6/10/2011

Competent adults are needed if we want can-do kids

How to equip every adult who has a role in young children's lives to best meet their needs is the subject of Children in Europe's 10th anniversary conference in Stirling on Tuesday 11 October.

Delegates will hear from national and international experts how we can support and involve families better, train the workforce, and build a sense of connection across the children's sector so as to develop the skills and joined-up services that serve children and families best.

Staff from the early childhood centre **Te Kōpae Piripono** in New Zealand explain how the Maori concept of whānau (extended family) can support and develop children, families and communities, with other speakers including **Professor Claire Cameron of Anglia Ruskin University** on developing competences in Early Childhood Education and Care and **Marianne Afzelius, manager of the Familjens Hus (the family's house)** in Sweden on building continuity and collaboration in meeting the additional needs of children and families.

Claire Cameron, Professor in the Faculty of Health and Social Care at Anglia Ruskin University, said: "A competent workforce is fundamental to the quality of provision. Many studies agree that centres whose staff have higher level qualifications also have a more stimulating and supportive environment for young children and better developmental outcomes: competence and higher level initial qualifications are intimately linked."

Stirling Council's Assistant Chief Executive Linda Kinney, who will chair the conference, said: "It takes a complex network of relationships, services and partnerships to make sure every young child's needs are met in the best possible way. In Stirling we are very proud of the work we are engaged in with our many partners, providing, developing and supporting services for children and their families. This conference is a valuable opportunity to consider how we can help all those who play a role in children's lives in their earliest years – including parents, local communities, the children's sector workforce and other organisations – to work together more effectively for all our children."

Bronwen Cohen, Chief Executive of Children in Scotland – the UK publishers of Children in Europe – said: "Children in Europe is celebrating 10 years of influencing policy and practice to improve children's lives, during which early years services have become a

priority area for the European Commission and EU member states have agreed a comprehensive vision for early years. However Scotland still has a long way to go to match the best children's services in Europe. We need universally available, high quality early years services to help children unlock their potential, improve employment, and tackle disadvantage effectively – and the Scottish Government's postponement of a Children's Services Bill does not reflect how urgently action is needed if we are to meet our national aspirations for children and young people."

Notes for Editors

1. The Children in Europe 10th anniversary conference **Working with Whānau: place, space and connectedness in early childhood** is held in association with Stirling City Council on Tuesday 11 October at Stirling Management Centre.

2. In 2011 Children in Europe celebrates 10 years of knowledge sharing across 18 countries and in 15 languages. Since 2001 it has been a source of information on developments that improve children's lives across Scotland and beyond, including the European Commission's recent Communication on Early Childhood Education and Care, which sets a comprehensive vision for all EU member states.

3. **Children in Europe:** Children in Europe is a magazine for everyone working with and for children from 0 to 10 and those interested in children's issues. It aims to provide a forum for ideas, practice and information and to contribute to the development of policy and practice at European and national levels. It is published in the UK and Ireland by Children in Scotland. Children in Europe Issue 21, ***Empowering children, parents and the workforce? The competency debate***, was published on **1 September 2011**. For more information visit www.childrenineurope.org

4. **Children in Scotland** is the national agency for voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families in Scotland. It exists to identify and promote the interests of children and their families and to ensure that relevant policies, services and provision are of the best possible quality and able to meet the demands of a diverse society. For further information visit www.childreninscotland.org.uk

To order a copy of Children in Europe telephone 0131 222 2400 or visit www.childreninscotland.org.uk/publications

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