

Albania

Country Overview

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Country name

Albania

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Introduction

Preschool education in Albania is part level 0 of the National Qualification Framework, and includes an integral part of education and social care for children. Preschool education, as in most other countries, has the purpose to provide a positive impact on child development and support families in children's education and care processes. That includes the development of the individuals, acquisition of developmental skills, and participation in social life. At the national level there are no evidence-based nor proven preschool programmes related to social and emotional learning.

Development

Preschool education in Albania present at level 0 of the National Qualification Framework, and includes an integral part of education and social care for children. Preschool education, as in most other countries, has the purpose to provide a positive impact on child development and support for the family. That includes the development the individuals, acquisition of developmental skills, and participation in social life. At the national level there are no evidence-based nor proven preschool programmes related to social and emotional learning.

Assessment

The pedagogical approach in Albania is very teacher-centred: the teacher is the one leading the learning process. The curriculum should be child-centred and focused on natural learning. There is no unique system for assessing and monitoring children's skills in the preschool institution, as well as the shortcomings of evidence-based studies related to assessment of social and emotional skills of preschool children.

Intervention

There are no national systematic and certified programmes of social and emotional learning for children, but we find a few positive practices through international project activities, although not for preschool children.

For instance, for school aged children, and in the framework of the "A total approach to address students at risk of dropping out of school in Tirana, Korça, Berat and Durrës", project implemented by the Albanian Social Services Association in collaboration with MASR & ASCAP and supported by UNICEF Albania. During these project activities 200 teachers, school psychologists and principals have been trained to develop social and emotional expressions, aiming at increasing the resilience of vulnerable children at risk of dropping out of school in 20 schools in Tirana, Korça, Berat and Durrës. Also, during these activities 68 teachers and school principals have been trained to build good relationships and involve parents in school (Nano, Salla, & Zeqiraj, 2019).

Albania has focused financial resources for education mainly on the social inclusion of Roma and other minorities (Egyptians, children with special needs etc.). One of the projects with positive

benefits is “Leave No one Behind,” which is related to children, and is financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). This is a four-year programme (2017-2021) that was implemented by UN agencies under the management of UNDP (www.al.undp.org).

References

- Nano, L., Salla, A., Zeqiraj, A. (2019). This is my challenge. Tirana, Print-AL.
- Sula, G., Dutrevis, M., Crahay, M. (2019). Effects of evidence-based professional development for preschool teachers in Albania. *Early Years*, 1–14. doi:10.1080/09575146.2019.1669537

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