



EARLY LEARNING

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To cover:

- The impacts of early learning
- Trends in early childhood education
- Assessing the impact of early childhood education
- What you can do
- Questions/comments



Some views on early learning and ECEC ...

- Prior to starting school, children are too young to “learn”
- Early education is harmful
- Home circumstances are over-riding
- Any positive effects of ECEC “fade out” in early schooling.

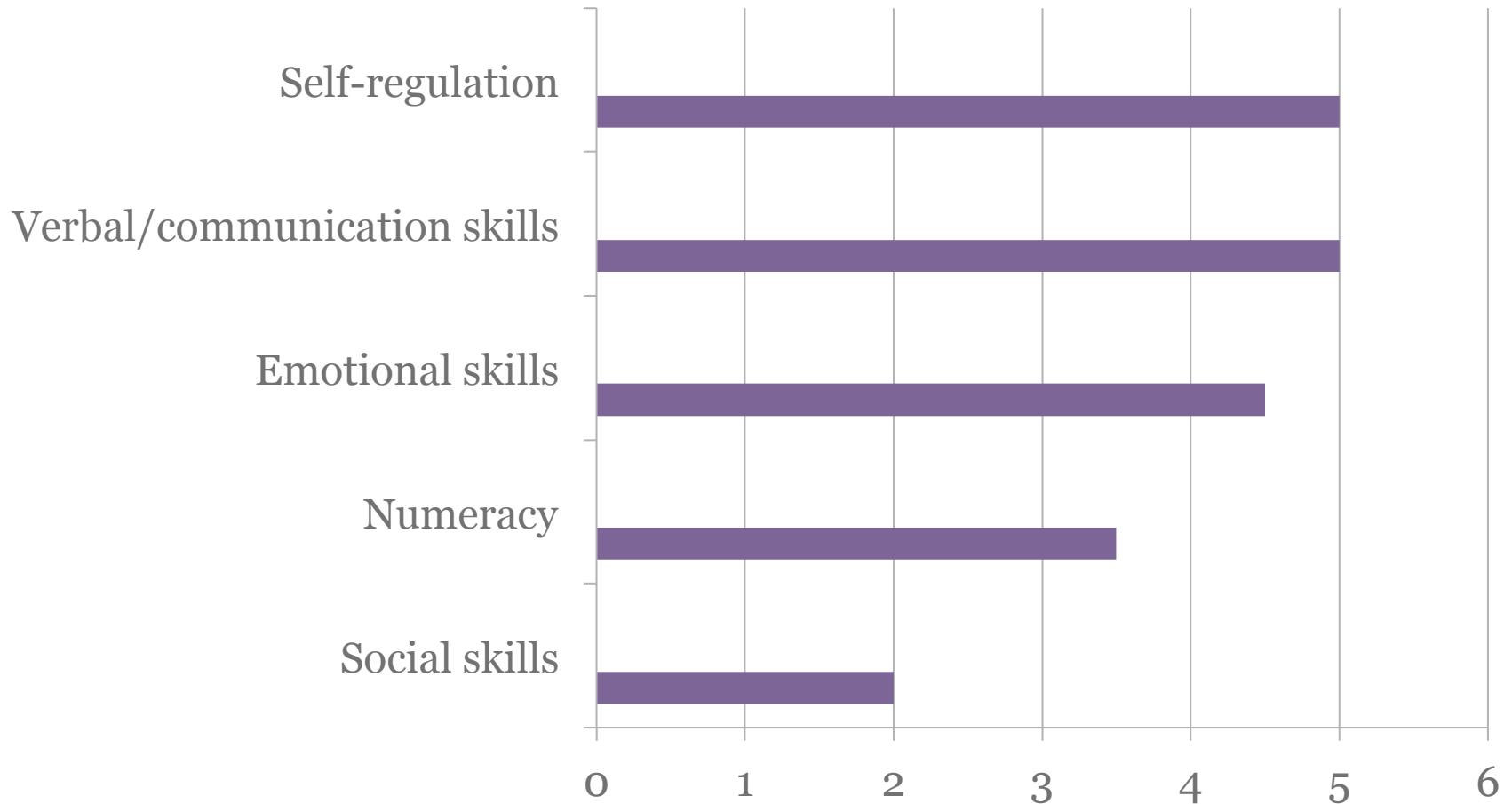


Yet early learning is predictive of a broad set of positive outcomes ...

- Educational attainment
- Employment and earnings
- Physical and mental health
- Civic engagement
- Law abiding
- Happiness and life satisfaction.



Some early learning matters most ...

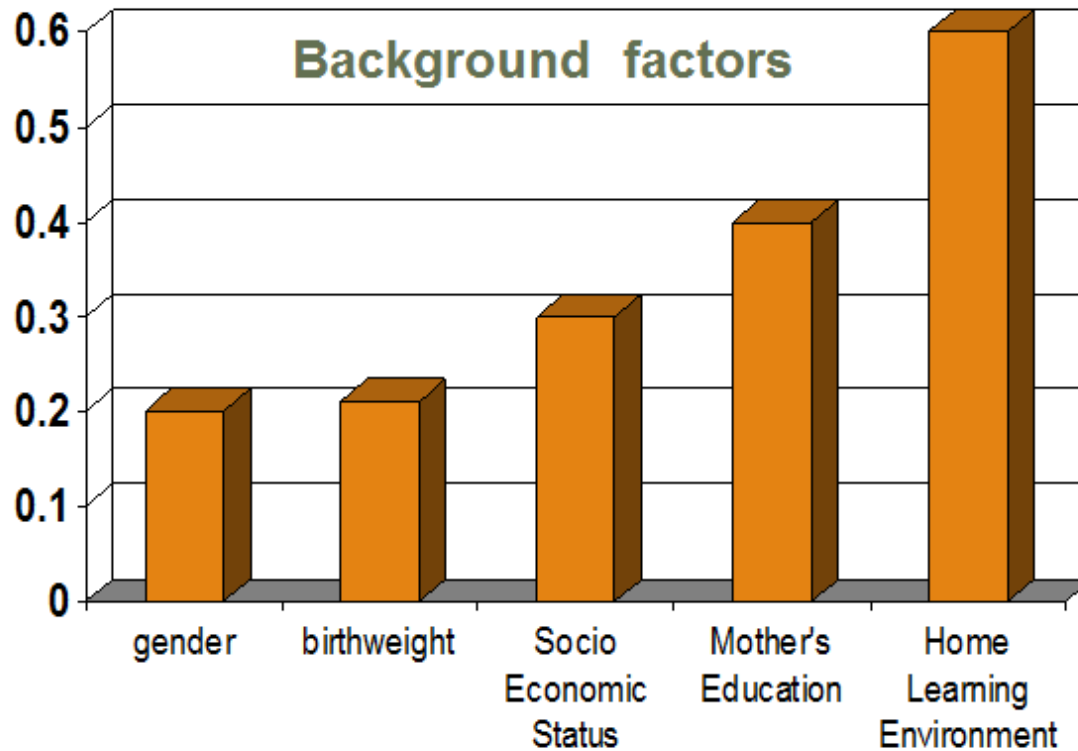




Early learning starts in the home ...

(Source: EPPE, 2004)

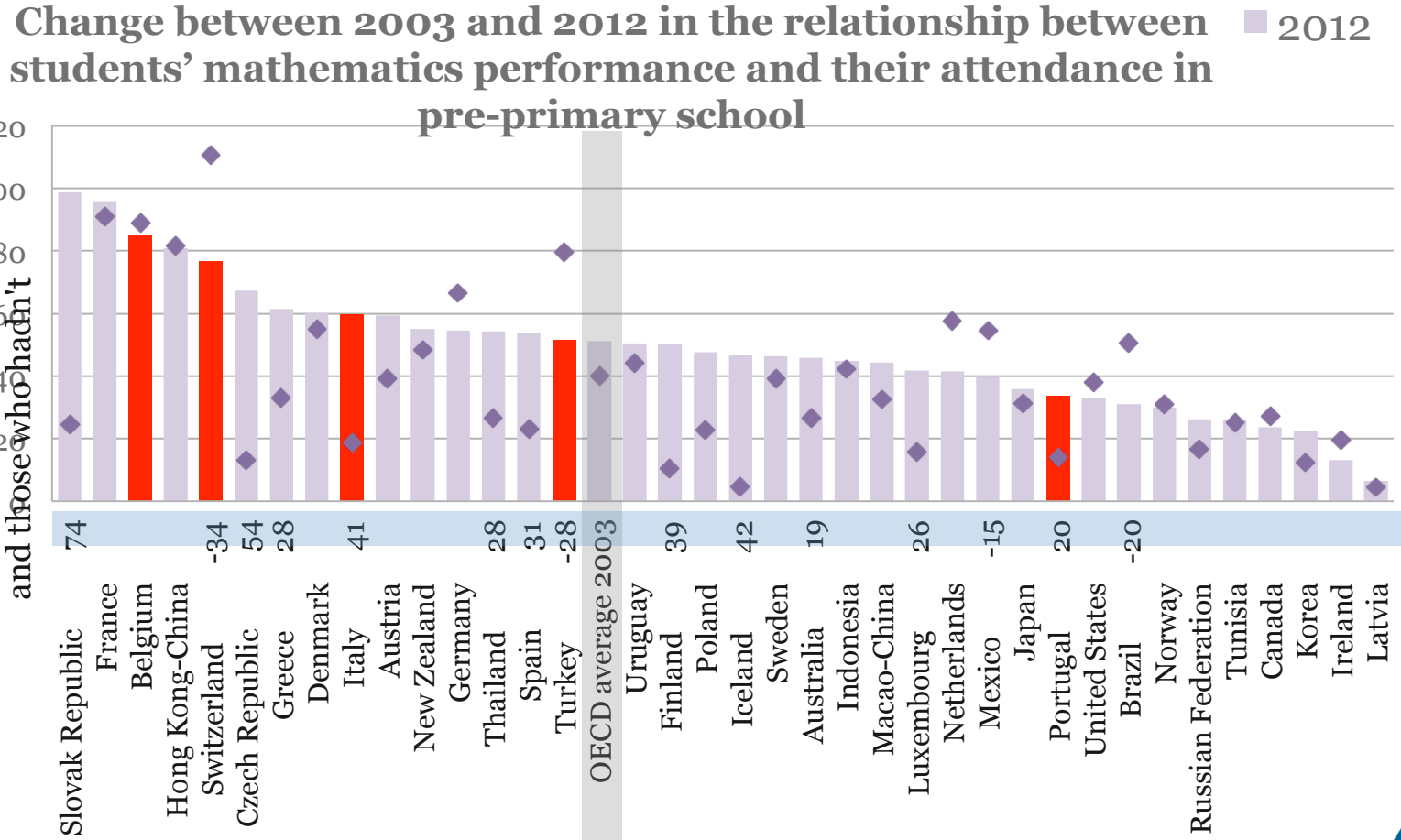
Effect sizes on literacy, age 5





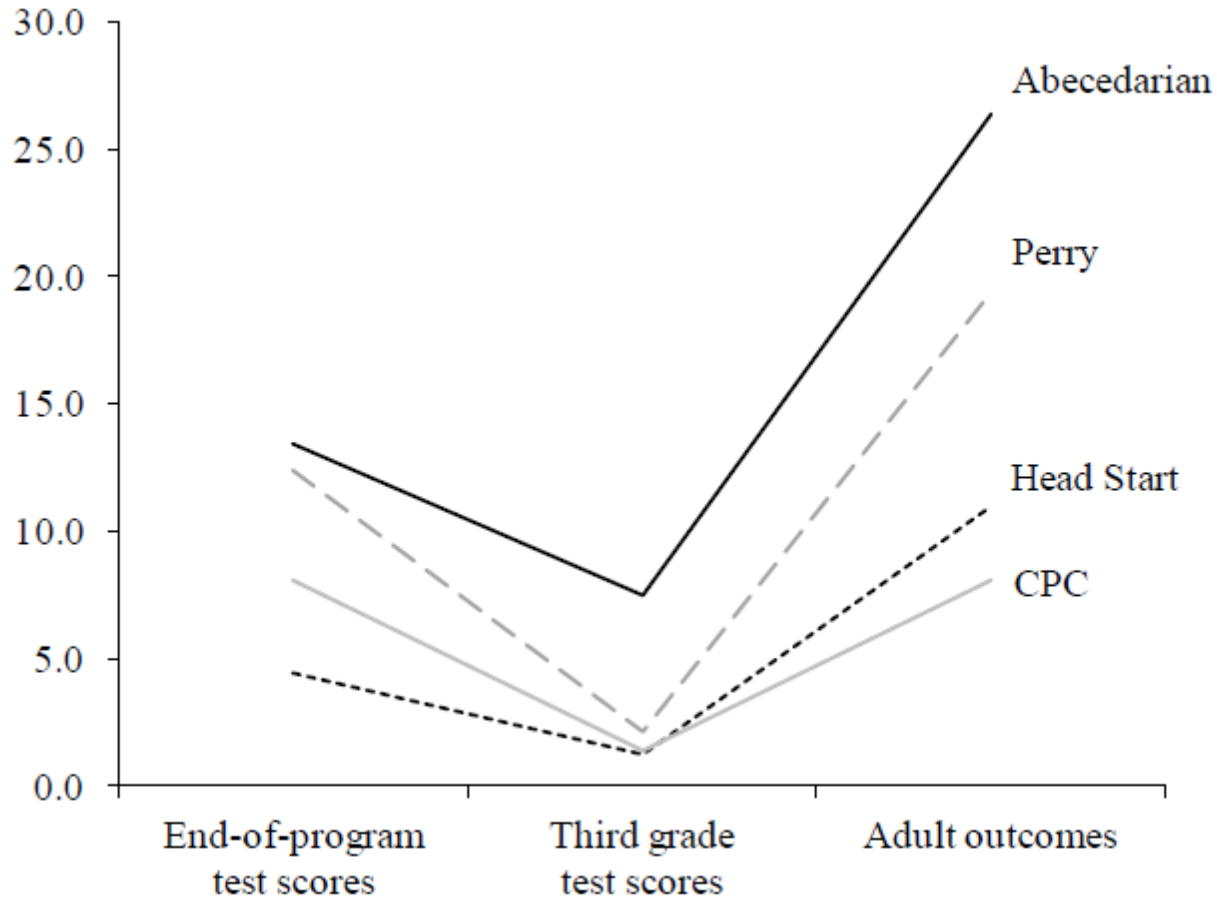
ECEC effects are positive, but variable

Score-point difference in mathematics performance between students who reported that they had attended pre-primary education (ISCED 0) for more than one year and those who hadn't





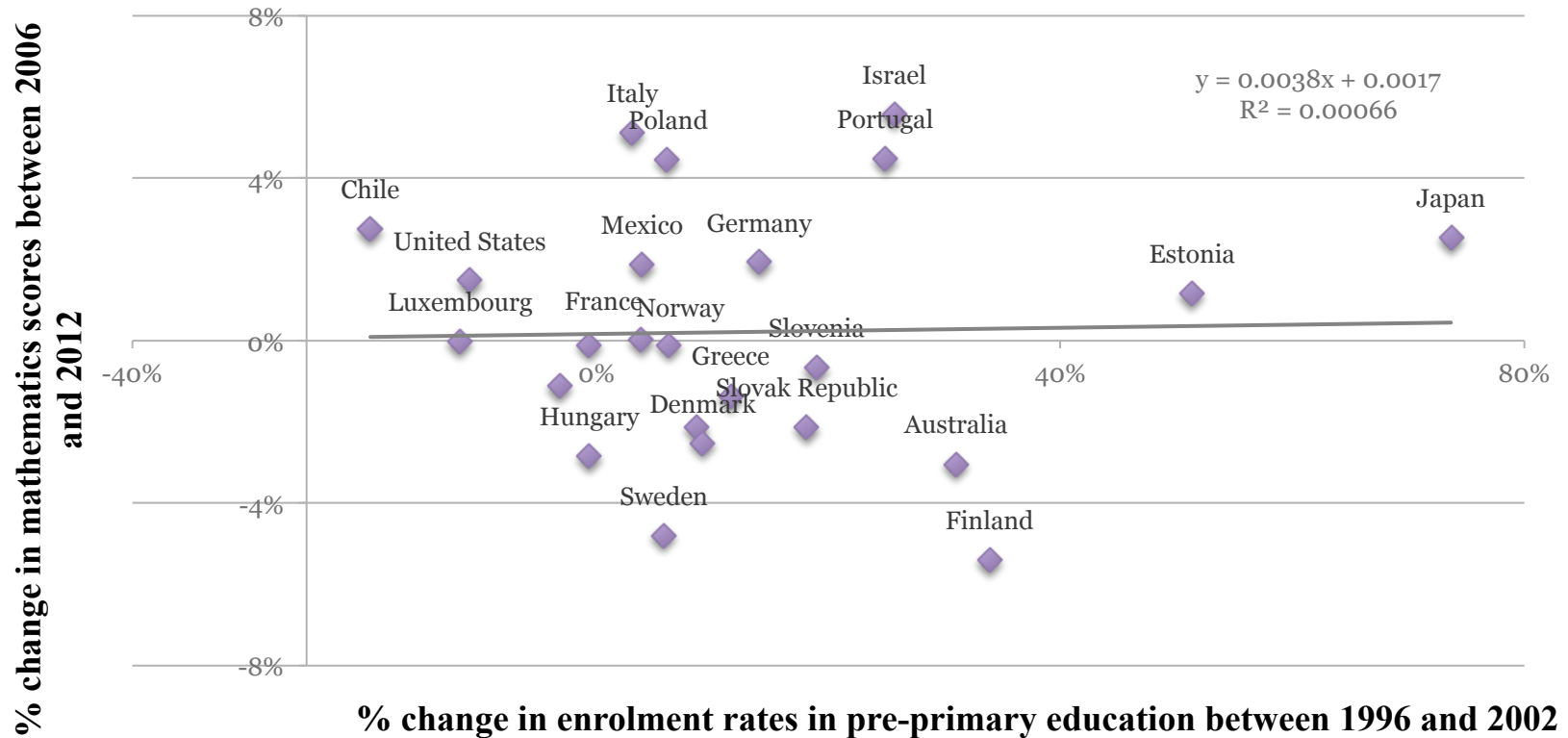
High quality ECEC is especially positive for disadvantaged children (Source: Bartik, 2014)





Although increasing participation in ECEC does not always lift outcomes ...

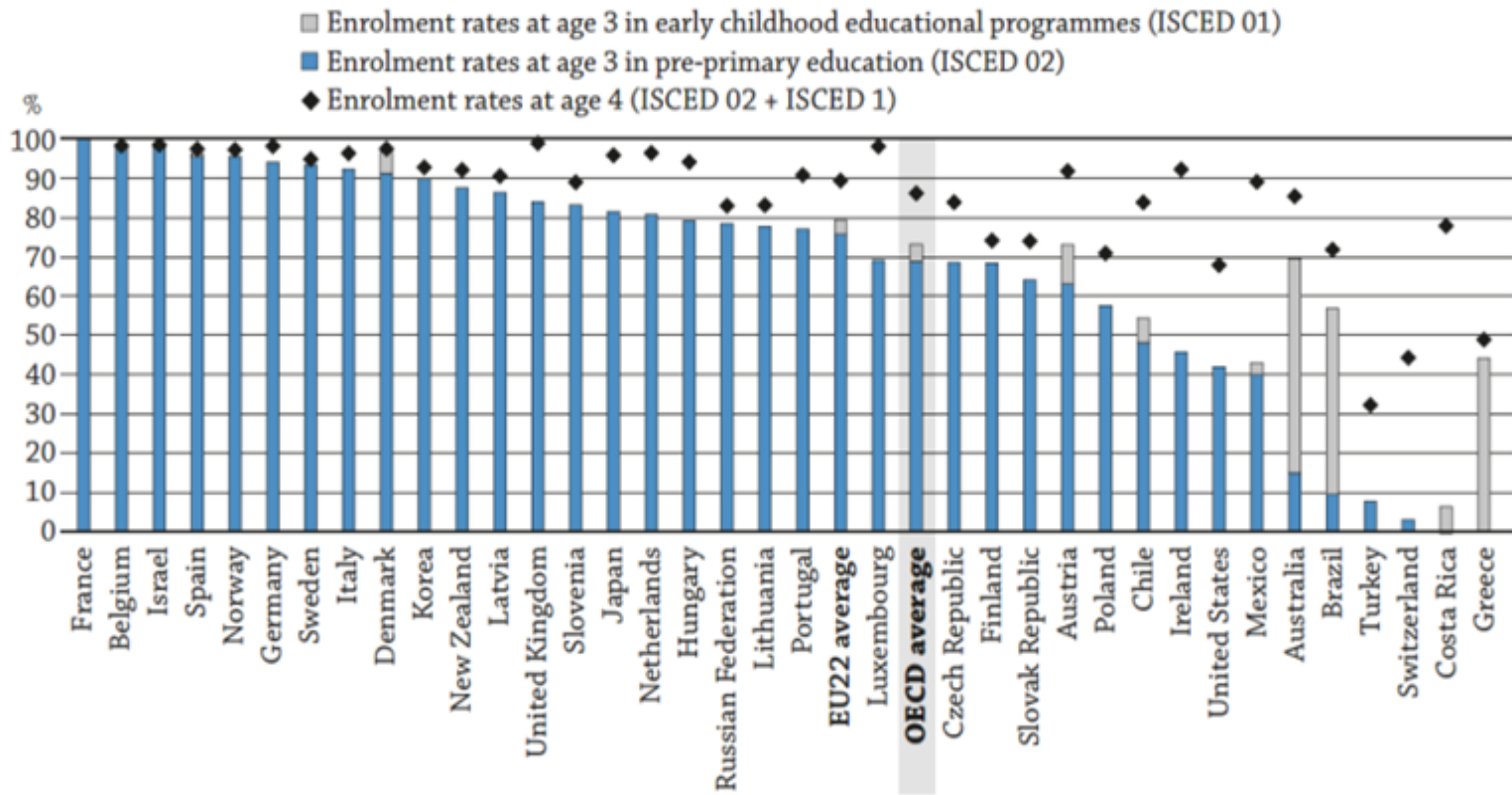
Correlation between the raise in enrolment rates in ECEC and the increase in PISA mathematics scores





More is being invested in ECEC

Enrolment rates at age 3 and 4 in early childhood and primary education (2014)





But countries struggle to measure the quality and impact of ECEC?

- Measures of quality:
 - Tend to focus on structural aspects
 - Have weak predictive capability
 - Are subject to variability, and
 - Are costly.



New OECD Study on Early Learning

- Interest from countries in children's early learning outcomes has arisen from:
 - Concerns about uneven quality of ECEC provision and poor measures for assessing quality
 - Intentions to lift ECEC participation, and wanting to ensure quality and impact
 - Interest in improving equity for disadvantaged children
 - Interest in getting the maximum value from ECEC for their students.



Purpose of the Study

- To help countries improve children's experiences and outcomes
 - at a critical point in their development
 - across emotional and social well-being, and emerging cognitive skills
 - in the context of children's individual characteristics, their home environment and their early learning experiences.



What you can do ...

- Encourage evidence-based approaches, ie evaluations and comparative research
- Don't assume inputs = outcomes
- Insist on information about impacts on students
- Encourage your countries to join the new OECD Study.



Questions/comments?

