ECCE in National Education Policy (NEP: 2020): 
Addressing the Learning Continuum

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About the Presentation

- NEP recommendations for the Foundational stage & ECCE.
- Why NEP Recommendations for ECCE?
- Priorities for policy implementation
What *shift* is required in content & pedagogy in preprimary and Grades 1 and 2

- **Revised school structure** with Foundational Stage.
- **Vision for ECCE**: Holistic & updated.
- **Medium of Instruction**: Home language
- **Curriculum**: upward extension; spiral; flexible for individual pace; developmentally appropriate
- **Pedagogy**: Play & activity based. No formal teaching of 3 R’s
NEP recommendations for ECCE: The Context

❖ Sustainable Development Goals & India’s Commitment
❖ Learning Crisis & Indian Research Evidence
❖ Global & Indian research & surveys
Why birth – 8 years?

a) learning begins at birth
b) Early years critical
c) Learning is continuous & cumulative process.
IECEI Study: Children with higher cognitive readiness scores at age 5 also did better in early grade assessments (controlling for family background)
Participation in & Curricular Quality of preschool education & Class 1 & 2 matters

❖ Preschool quality & curriculum have positive impact on cognitive & language readiness of 5 year olds.

❖ Preschool + Class 1 & 2 curricular content & pedagogy if consistent and seamless leads to higher scores in grade 3.

❖ Curriculum focused on experiential play/activity based learning, language dev and conceptual understanding leads to better performance.

❖ Formal teaching of 3 R’s in preschools negatively associated with cognitive readiness.
Diverse participation pathways between age 5 and 8

- Participation trends show multiple pathways for children between 4 to 8 years.
- *Age appropriate participation not necessary. Mixed ages.*
- State differences seen.
- Participation trend in primary school stabilises only by age 8.
Overall cognitive & early literacy levels are low

- State norms expect children to join school at age 5/5+, the school readiness tool was designed for children at age 5.

- Results State norms expect children to join school at age 5/5+, the school readiness tool was designed for children at age 5.

- that overall school readiness levels are low with some state variations
**HOW DO 4 YEAR OLDS SPEND TIME IN PRESCHOOL?**

*Formal teaching dominates:*

*Developmentally appropriate practice & play limited:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Anganwadi Centre</th>
<th>Private Preschool</th>
<th>Innovative Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No activities</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal teaching of 3Rs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Routine activities (attendance/meal time)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free play in activity corner</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor play</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhymes and action songs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free and guided conversation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story telling</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age appropriate structured cognitive and language activities
Priorities for Action Plan for ECCE & Foundational Stage (FS)

**Focal Areas**

- *Upward* curricular continuity & learning outcomes from pre primary to primary.
- *Developmentally appropriate curriculum & No formal teaching* of the 3 R’s
- Holistic curriculum for primary education.
- Cadre of FS teachers (preschool & primary teaching) & expansion of training facilities.
- Quality standards; budget & regulatory system for FS.

**Focal Areas**

- *Trained & dedicated teacher* for preschool education in AWs.
- *Smooth convergence mechanisms* with MWCD to resolve issues of dual management.
- ECCE training for primary heads & teachers
- *Equitable quality* as per standards across all four models.
- Communication strategy to orient parents on good quality ECCE and importance of positive parenting.
Thank You
New Education Policy 2020: Foundational Stage

1. Revised school structure: In the new 5+3+3=4 structure a strong base of ECCE from age 3 is included to promote overall learning, development and well being; year 3 of ECCE would be Balvatika or preparatory class.

2. Vision for ECCE: “ECCE ideally consists of flexible, multifaceted, multilevel, play-based, activity-based, and inquiry based education”. The overall aim of ECCE will be to attain optimal outcomes in domains of physical & motor development, cognitive development; socio-emotional & ethical development; cultural/artistic dev & dev of communication & early language, literacy and numeracy.”

3. Foundational years: The Foundational Stage will consist of five years (3-8 YEARS) of flexible, multilevel, play/activity based learning and the curriculum and pedagogy of ECCE.

4. Medium of Instruction: Wherever possible the MOI until at least Grade 5 but preferably till grade 8 & beyond will be home language /MT/RL. This will be followed by both public nad private schools. Exposure to many languages – multilingual environment.

5. Bilingual approaches: Teachers will be encouraged to use bilingual approaches including bilingual teaching learning materials with those students whose home language may be different from MOI.