'Taking children seriously': A new report on the EU childhood education for sustainable development

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The report's authors include several researchers from Chalmers and the University of Gothenburg, as well as from other Universities in Sweden and Europe.

One of the report's authors is Professor Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson of the University of Gothenburg and, among other things, world president of the OMEP organisation. She is, in addition, speaking at the seminar in Brussels under the heading "Early childhood education and sustainable development".

**Capable children**

Small children are more capable of acting, thinking, reasoning and understanding than is generally believed. This is the contention of the report, which provides an overview of current scientific findings concerning children's interest in and capacity to understand issues surrounding the social, economic and ecological dimensions of sustainable development.

"We want to emphasise the issue of early childhood education for sustainable development and the importance of the EU attending to children's interests and rights within this area to a greater degree than is currently the case. It is also hoped that the research in the area is strengthened, as small children are an important element in sustainable development," says Bo Samuelsson, chairman of EPSD.

**Recommendations to the EU**

EPSD makes a number of recommendations to the EU in the report. These include recommending that education within both sustainable development and early childhood education should be an integrated and essential part of programmes for both...
education and in-service training of preschool teachers.

Another recommendation is that the EU should increase or modify existing framework programmes in order to stimulate innovation through integrating education for sustainable development and preschooling.

**More information:** Read more about EPSD? [http://www.chalmers.se/gmv/EN/projects/epsd](http://www.chalmers.se/gmv/EN/projects/epsd)

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