



The [Early Childhood Education Policy Academy](#)¹ is a multi-year effort by the World Bank designed to help countries identify needs and generate options to improve early childhood education (ECE) at the country level. It offers a unique opportunity for country teams to strengthen policymaker capacity, problem-solve within a global network of peers, and engage in South-to-South learning along some of the world's leading early childhood practitioners and academic experts. The program's first cohort supported 12 countries² from April 2021 to November 2022. This case study showcases how the program specifically supported the Türkiye country team.

CONTEXT

The government of **Türkiye** has recognized the crucial importance of early learning and has implemented various initiatives to improve access and quality in recent years. For example, the "10,000 Schools in Basic Education" project aims to universalize ECE by establishing 40,000 new preschool classrooms and building 3000 preschools, ensuring that all five-year-olds have access to preschool education (currently 97%). National government initiatives have aimed to improve the quality of ECE by developing and implementing standardized curriculum guidelines, promoting professional development opportunities for teachers, and increasing parental engagement. Continued investments and strategic policies in measuring outcomes and strengthening the curriculum are crucial to further enhance and ensure the provision of high-quality ECE throughout Türkiye. Under the World Bank's Project, Safe Schooling and Distance Educations, Ministry of National Education is creating e-content and training modules for teachers in support of the ECE curriculum. The Government is prioritizing expanding access to childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds with a national target of 70% over the next five year. The ways in which the program has supported these reform efforts are detailed below.

ECE SNAPSHOT

Access

GER:

- 16% for 3-year-olds ([UIS](#), 2020)
- 38% for 4-year-olds ([UIS](#), 2020)
- 99% for 5-year-olds (Ministry of National Education AY2022/23)

PIRLS Score: 496 (with 14.1% low and 34% high proficiency)

Enabling environment

Learning standards/curriculum



PROGRAM CONTRIBUTION

GOAL 1

MEASURE ECD OUTCOMES



- **Contribution:** A Technical Assistance (TA) provided by the program has supported the country team in the development of a user-friendly measurement tool to understand the needs of schools, including budget management, human resources, and the learning environment.
- **Next steps:** Piloting of this measurement will be conducted soon.

GOAL 2

ENHANCE PLAY-BASED LEARNING



- **Contribution:** The Learning Through Play course and participation in the LEGO Idea Conference in April 2022 has empowered the country team to explore solutions for advancing play-based learning approaches.
- **Next steps:** The country team is incorporating more play-based methodologies in the preschool curriculum, especially in early numeracy. The government has updated activity books and now there are separate activity books for three-, four-, and five-year-olds, which will be distributed at the beginning of the new school year in September 2023.

GOAL 3

IMPROVE THE CURRICULUM



- **Contribution:** The Quality Early Learning course provided strategies for curriculum improvement and how educators can better facilitate learning. Following the course, the curriculum has been updated with a greater focus on early literacy and numeracy.
- **Next steps:** The Ministry of National Education will train preschool teachers on the updated curriculum. Digital resources are being developed.

¹ The Early Childhood Education Policy Academy is managed by the World Bank's Early Learning Partnership (ELP), a multi-donor trust fund that provides resources and technical assistance to support early childhood development and early learning around the world.

² Participating countries included: Cambodia, Central African Republic, El Salvador, Liberia, Morocco, North Macedonia, Paraguay, Senegal, South Africa, Türkiye, West Bank and Gaza, and Uganda.