

1 Year Course 8th Cohort 2016

On the 5th of March 2017, 59 students (the highest number ever) graduated for the 1 year pre-school teacher training course that ECEC runs in cooperation with Kathmandu University and supported by NLA University in Norway. Two classes were run in ECEC Head Office, one class in ECEC Kathmandu Office.

The graduates of this course have a thorough understanding of child development philosophies and theories on early childhood education and they are able to use this knowledge in teaching young children. Their understanding and professional ability enables them to bring sustainable changes in their schools. But for many of them, it does not stop there: they are vocal advocates of child-friendly education and the need to improve the education in Nepal.



Bus Loads of Students!

Many schools are aware of the need for change in the way the children are being taught; the "talk and chalk" method is just not enough.

Working together with many schools to provide child friendly education for all children is ECEC's mission, joining hands for a new Nepal: Training teachers, shaping future. Sometimes teachers arrive by busloads to be trained at ECEC which makes us happy: the more, the better!



Transitions in ECEC

The 17th of July 2017 was a historical day for ECEC: In line with the process that the ECEC management has been focusing on for the last 6 years, the daily management of the ECEC office was handed over to the hands of a Nepali colleague.

Mr. Pitambar Neupane was selected by an assessment team as the new General Manager of ECEC per 1st of Shrawan 2074. A special meeting marked this transition: in the presence of all the ECEC staff members, ECEC Advisory Board Members and close partners, Pitambar signed the contract for this new responsibility.

Pitambar has been working for ECEC for the last 9 years and in recent years he was the Head of the Teacher Training Department. His vision and passion for making education more child friendly is one major characteristic that is noticeable when talking to Pitambar: children should be happy to go to school, a love for learning should be nurtured.

This transition does not mean there will be no expatriates working in ECEC anymore: the strength of ECEC has been and will be the synergy between expatriate and Nepali experts working together.

Mrs. Kamala Rai has been appointed as the new Head of the Teacher Training Department, and Mrs. Doji Pradhan as the new Head of the Administration Department. We wish them all much joy, wisdom and strength in their new jobs!



Awareness Raising Activities

More and more teachers and parents are aware of the fact that the way they have treated children in the past has been inappropriate and does not fit anymore. So many things have changed over the past decades in Nepal.

For example, most of the grown-ups of today were able to independently roam around the village or the squares of the cities when they were young, exploring the world, learning many things while doing so. Nowadays, this is no longer possible. So what do we do to still give the children the opportunity to learn by exploring the world?

ECEC pro-actively goes out in the field to tell about the possibilities of child friendly education.



Upgrading Primary Course

With an increasing number of preschools implementing the child friendly, developmentally appropriate way of teaching, the teachers of the first classes in primary realize that they also have to change their way of teaching. ECEC is aware of this and has been offering a one week introduction primary course (level 1) and a more elaborate one month primary (step 1) course for teachers of the first classes of the primary school.

Recently some of the ECEC teacher trainers have been studying this aspect of the work more deeply, resulting in the teacher trainers coming together to improve the primary package.



ICDP Training of Trainers (ToT) Graduation

ICDP (International Child Development Programme) is an international programme with the objective to improve the relation between caregivers and the children in their charge.

It has been developed in Norway, but is being used in more than 50 countries around the world now. Because of the proven positive impact on the relation between caregivers and the children in their charge, UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO) endorse the programme worldwide.

ECEC has been selected for introducing the ICDP programme in Nepal. In 2014 and 2015 Norwegian International trainers have been training Nepali facilitators, who have run series of meetings with caregivers. As in every country, the results in Nepal are very encouraging: many parents experienced improved understanding of their children and because of this, less problems occur at home.

In 2016 the International ICDP trainers have been conducting workshops in Nepal to train trainers. This group has graduated in May 31st, 2017.

With certified local ICDP trainers available in Nepal now, the programme can develop further independently; fully carried out by persons who live in Nepal and know the Nepal situation and context. Fresh facilitator trainings are scheduled! Working together for happy families in Nepal.



ICDP International President Visits Nepal

In April, Mrs. Nicoletta Armstrong, one of the founders and current president of ICDP International visited ECEC, this was a very special occasion. Having been involved in the ICDP programme from the very beginning, Nicoletta was able to tell us more about the history and development of the ICDP programme.

A lot of work had been done to get all the ICDP teaching material translated into the Nepali language. ECEC was proud to be able to present Nicoletta with a set of the Nepali ICDP material.



ICDP Caregiver Testimonial



"I am Shazia Senol, mother of two daughters. Before taking the ICDP caregiver workshop, I had a negative mind set towards my children's behaviour, but now my perspective has totally changed for the better. When we plant a sapling, its growth depends on the gardener's care; we do not blame the plant if it doesn't grow healthily. Likewise, positive child rearing depends on how parents or caregivers nurture them, but most of the time we tend to blame our children when they misbehave. ICDP has changed my concept on how I look at children. I was not very close with one of my daughters, but after this ICDP training my relationship with her has bonded beautifully. I think every parent should go through the ICDP training to better the relationship with their children."

Ms. Shazia Senol, Co-ordinator, Indreni Bal Batika School, Baluwatar

Involvement in National ECD Curriculum Development

Recognized as one of the pioneers in Early Childhood Education, ECEC's Founding Director Reiny de Wit was invited to a 2 day seminar in May. Ground breaking discussion included revising the government of Nepal's ECD curriculum and material and to brainstorm about how to carry this forward.



ECD Facilitator Training in Dhading

Via the NGO Education Horizon Nepal (EHN), ECEC has been involved in training ECD facilitators of the government and community schools in Dhading for several years. Once again, during spring, ECEC's Prabha and Sumana travelled to Dhading Besi and Hadassah and Geeta to Aarughat to deliver training. It is always good to hear the testimonies of the participants of the courses.

"This training has totally changed my perspectives towards the old way of teaching. I was focused on the traditional method but now I am much clearer about the play way method and confident that I can implement it in my classroom. However the parents were not happy: they wanted their children to learn the letters and numbers.

As part of the training I went through an ECD presentation where I had to share about the importance of the play way method and holistic development of children. I practiced and prepared myself to speak on these topics which have helped me to build confidence in talking to the parents. Now, I can convince parents about the limitations of focusing only on reading and writing. I am very much thankful towards EHN and ECEC".

Ms. Dipa Majhi



Parent Training in Solokhumbu

ECEC has been working for several years with Stichting Chimding, a Dutch NGO that supports some villages (Chimding, Kerung and Chyanshar) in Solokhumbu area. In April 2017, ECEC's Singi and Nanda were invited for follow up trainings in the area.

A parent seminar was one of the activities which included talking with parents about how teachers and parents can work together to support the children when they develop and study in school. The parents were enthusiastically involved in the activities of the seminar.



School Consultation in Pokhara

ECEC is involved in a consultation trajectory with the Bhasker Memorial School and Rara Kunja Schools in Pokhara. A consultation package is very holistic: besides training the teachers, there are also seminars for the school management committee and the parents.

The school helpers (Aaya's, drivers and guards) also took part in a day training. School helpers are an integral part of the preschool setting: they help the teachers take care of the children. Most school helpers have not had any teaching in early childhood development. Although they do love the children, they do not always handle them in a developmentally appropriate way, which can be counterproductive to whatever the teacher is trying to do in the class.

The interactive training gave the school helpers the experience of what it means to learn by doing and why this is important for children.



ECD Introduction Course in Itahari

The Bishwo Adarsha School invited ECEC to train their teachers in April 2017. ECEC's Sumana and Prabha travelled there to conduct an introductory training.

"Though I am a teacher of Pre-primary level I did not really know how to handle young children. This five days training has given me new knowledge and ideas to run the class in a very interesting and easy way. I learnt that 'Circle Time' is very important for the students and it helps every student to get involved in the activities and they all feel special and closer to the teacher and friends. I liked the idea of 'Thematic Approach' which is really very useful

for both teacher and students. I am looking forward to learning more from ECEC in the near future". - Ms. Nirmala Ghimire



Finance Department

Teacher Training is the most visible service of ECEC, our core business. However, although less visible, a good finance department is as important for the company. In ECEC we are thankful for the work of our accountants who work every day on budgets and figures to keep our company healthy. With so many different products and all kind of projects, this is not the easiest job.

With ECEC's zero tolerance for corruption policy, this also means going against the tide sometimes in internal and external relations. Thank you Yousuph and Pritima for this very important work!



Moving of Business Development Department



With the expansion of the work, the ECEC building is getting too small! The increasing team of Teacher Trainers desperately needed more office space and an extra (model) classroom would enable more possibilities for trainings.

The ECEC Business Development Department (which was located on the

top floor of the ECEC building has now moved to the top floor of the close by situated building at the road (where ECEC used to be). On Friday the 7th of July, a house warming party was held in the new location.

ECEC Trade Mark

Since January 2017, ECEC is a trade mark!

ECEC's Gyan has been working on this for 3 years and 3 months: spending hours at different desks in government offices. Perseverance pays off! Well done Gyan!



Kathmandu Office

The ECEC Kathmandu Office is busier than ever! Having a full new group of 1 Year Course students keep the teacher trainers busy with all that is involved: teaching classes, mentoring the individual students, checking home assignments and logbooks and visiting teachers while active in their (practical) schools. These practicals take lots of time and energy of the ECEC trainers, for the schools are all over Kathmandu. But it is a core activity of the 1 year courses: observing the students practicing what they have learned in class in a real school setting with the possibility to discuss the performance with them personally. Besides the 1 year course other courses are also in demand, making the need for more space and more trainers felt. A "problem" ECEC is happy about and hopefully will be able to solve soon!



Training Schedule for Head Office & KTM Office (July – December 2017)

Course	Step 1 Lv 1		Step 1 Full		Phonics		ICDP		Aya Training		Primary		Leadership	
	HO	KO	HO	KO	HO	KO	HO	KO	HO	KO	HO	KO	HO	KO
Jul	16	3 & 11	24	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aug	13	28	-	4	7	-	7	7	14	-	-	-	-	-
Sept	3 & 24	-	-	4	-	9 & 16	-	-	-	5	10	-	3	-
Oct	8 & 29	9 & 23	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-
Nov	19	20	6	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dec	10	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	-

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