



ÇABAÇAM

ÇOK AMAÇLI ERKEN ÇOCUKLUK EĞİTİMİ MERKEZİ

The Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University ÇABAÇAM “Multi Purpose Early Childhood Education Centre”

Early childhood education supports that very crucial period in a child’s development when the essentials of learning and human behaviour are established as the child learns at a rate never to be repeated. Education in early childhood plays an important role in reducing the impact of economic and social disadvantages and supporting child development. Although a child’s academic achievement is known to be affected by socioeconomic status, whether positively or negatively, we also know that attendance at preschool positively affects the future achievement of every child, independent of their family’s economic status.

92% of all early childhood education in Turkey currently takes place in formal institutions and only 8% is realised through alternative early childhood education models, while 2.7 million children aged 3-5 are without access to any form of preschool education. Innovative methods of provision and alternative models are essential to provide access to early learning services for less privileged children.

The Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University ÇABAÇAM (Multi Purpose Early Childhood Education Centre) is an innovative model based on the active collaboration of multiple stakeholders, namely academic, regional and district administrative institutions and non governmental organisations. Since its initial opening as a model unit in the Faculty of Education of this university, in March, 2008, the centre has been under the sponsorship of ÇABA Association. With the support of this organization, and the cooperation of Kepez Municipality, Çanakkale, to date it has provided educational services to 198 children aged 4-6 and their families, and training for approximately 450 trainee teachers.

The primary aim of this project is to provide early childhood education services, particularly for disadvantaged and at risk children and their families through participatory community collaborative action. In addition, it offers trainee teachers the opportunity for valuable hands-on teaching experience, enabling them to better position the theory within practice during training for their future career.

This multi-purpose community project was first realized between 2008-2012 as the ‘Prof. Dr. Suzan Erbas Multi Purpose Early Childhood Education Unit’ at the Education Faculty on Anafartalar Campus and continued to serve the community from 2012-2015 as the ‘ÇABA Multi Purpose Early Childhood Education Unit’. The unit reopened as ‘ÇABAÇAM Multi Purpose Early Childhood Education Centre’ at the beginning of 2015-2016 academic year in new premises on the Terzioğlu Campus. Also, newly established within this unit is the “Kozalak Toy Exchange Studio”. Its goal is to channel educational materials, toys and stationary etc. towards schools in need. ÇABAÇAM was also chosen by the Sabancı Foundation as Turkey’s ‘Changemakers’ in 2017.

As the ÇABA team, our goal is to carry this project to all areas in Turkey where the need is greatest. As a volunteer organization, we have pledged to mobilize all of our voluntary resources to provide access to quality early childhood educational services for many more children, their families, trainee teachers and teachers, reaching out through education to all those individuals who are tasked with the care of young children throughout Turkey.

**“Early childhood education is the earliest form of
intervention for countering social inequality”**

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