

Science of Early Childhood Development, The Arabic short course

"ARC" translated and adapted a new training curriculum on the sciences of Early Childhood Development, which is based on an extensive material, produced by the College of Red River in Canada.

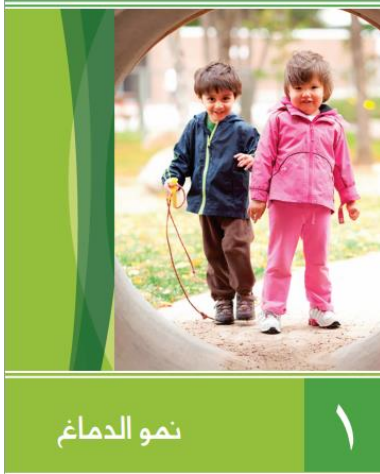


The translated Arabic curriculum is intended for a training of six days, after the Aga Khan Foundation applied and tested the English origin in several places in the world. A piloting SECD training was convened within the Arab Programme for ECD, in October 2014.

The short modules are summary versions of the 5 modules of SECD (Brain Development, Coping and Competence, Communicating and Learning, Developmental Health and Ecology of Childhood) presented in media rich slide presentations. They are designed to introduce some of the main themes in SECD in an offline format and to be presented in face-to-face settings.

The modules come with participant packages, a facilitator's guide including many learning activities and transcripts of videos. It is estimated that each module contains enough material to cover in a one day presentation so that the entire package can be offered as a one-week professional development training. The modules can be offered individually or as a partial set as well. The target audiences for these modules are professionals from sectors such as health and education as well as policy makers, religious leaders and others interested in early human development and population health.

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1. Brain development includes the most recent research into the developing brain. Concepts such as biological embedding and epigenetic help to demonstrate how genes and early environments together shape development and follow children throughout their lives.

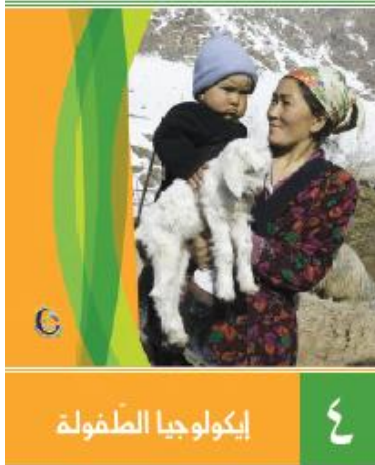


2. Coping and Competence explores key concepts such as self-regulation and why some children display resiliency and thrive in challenging environments while many do not. Crying, temperament, fear, stress, and aggression are all studied within a focus of caring relationships.



3. Communicating and Learning features an exploration of how children think and learn including exciting new understanding of infant memory. Language and literacy, and mathematical understanding are some of the key topics as research is used to outline the best practices and environments to support children's learning.

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4. The Ecology of Childhood looks at the contexts of early child experiences including home life, early childhood programs, communities, and government policy. The positive effects of early interventions are provided as guides for optimizing the environments of young children.



5. Developmental Health provides a clear overview of how and why the early years have such a long-term impact on both individuals and societies. Social gradients are explored with insight into how different communities respond differently to the needs of the early years with marked differences.