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Children's Participation in the Everyday Life of the Early Childhood Institution - Action Research

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Abstract: The increasing interest of ECCE policy and practice in the issue of children's participation in their own lives is a consequence of the changing mage of the childand the shift in focus to the child as anactive participant in socioculturalrealityinstead of theearlierfocus on thechild'sindividual development. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) stronglysupportstheimage of the child as a competent participant in education - capable of forming opinions, with the right to expressthemselves on allmattersaffectingthe mand with the right to haveadultsaroundthemrespectthis. Notwithstandingthecontemporaryparadigm of ECCE, however, achievements in thisarea are still in theirinfancy. This is evident in thepractices of ECCE, whereearlyyearsandpre-schoolchildren are stillseen as users of systemsandservicesratherthanagents of change in theirsocialcommunities. Recent literature identifiestheneed for lifelong, continuouslearning of preschoolteachersthroughresearchintotheirownpedagogicalpractice aneffectiveway as bridgingthegapbetweentheoryandpracticeandcontinuouslyimprovingthequality **ECCE** institutions. of Notwithstandingthecontemporaryparadigm of ECCE, however, achievements in thisarea are still in theirinfancy. Recent literature identifiestheneed for lifelong, continuouslearning preschoolteachersthroughresearchintotheirownpedagogicalpractice aneffectiveway as bridgingthegapbetweentheoryandpracticeandcontinuouslyimprovingthequality of ECCE institutions. Thispaperpresentstheprocess of actionresearchaimed at increasingchildren'sparticipation in (co-)designingthekindergartencurriculumandparticipation in decision-making on issuesaffectingtheirstay in theinstitution. Thisactionresearchtook place in 2 facilities of theinstitution ECCE - DV Rijeka. In thisresearchparticipated 5 preschoolteachersworking in 4 pedagogicalgroups, where childrenfrom 2 to 7 yearsold are enrolled. Also, the process of development of reflexive practice of preschool teachers who participated in this research is presented.

Keywords: action research, co-construction of curriculum, participation of children, reflexive practice **Conference Title:** ICETI 2023: International Conference on Education and Teaching Innovation

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