

# EARLY YEARS FACTSHEET

DATA, ANALYSIS, ACTION, IMPACT



ISSUE 8, FEBRUARY 2024

Early Years Factsheet is an initiative of the Institute of Early Childhood Development/ UNESCO Category 2 Institute, and present a snapshot of the research carried out in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). Through this Factsheet, IECD aims to widely disseminate the findings in a manner that is simple and easy to understand for the general population

## ASSESSMENT OF EARLY LEARNING READINESS FOR CRECHE / PRESCHOOL

Now in its fifth year, the main objective of the 2023 assessment is to evaluate the early learning readiness of a group of children aged 3 to 4, enrolled in both registered and unregistered child care services. By identifying strengths and areas for growth, this assessment aims to provide a solid foundation for children's educational success in the future. Through the efforts of the IECD / UNESCO Category 2 Institute, IECD strives to improve the overall achievement and development of all children as they progress to formal schooling.

**5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Year**  
**2019 -2023**

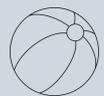
### Some Trends in CRECHE/PRESCHOOL Readiness

#### Mindfulness



Readiness for school extends beyond academics to include physical, emotional, and social development of the child.

#### Outdoor Activities



IECD emphasizes the significance of outdoor play for children and encourages care providers to include nature-based activities in their learning programs.

#### Parental Engagement

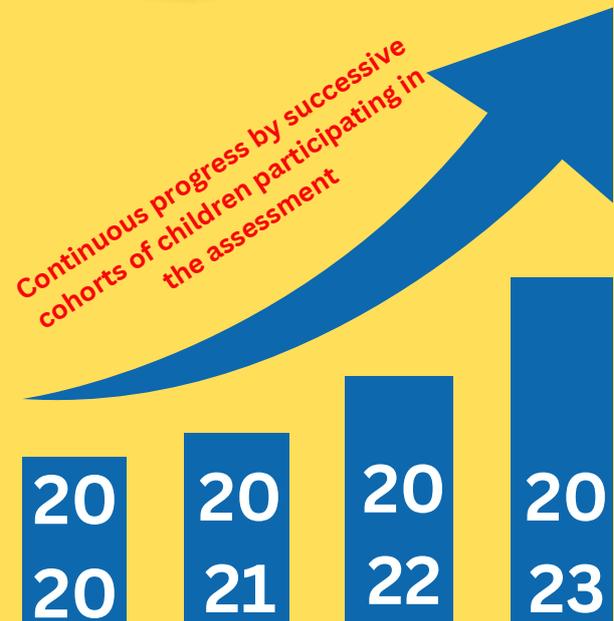
Child brain development is influenced by the relationships and experiences they have from a young age, with IECD aiming to promote high quality engagement to support children's academic success.



#### Technology



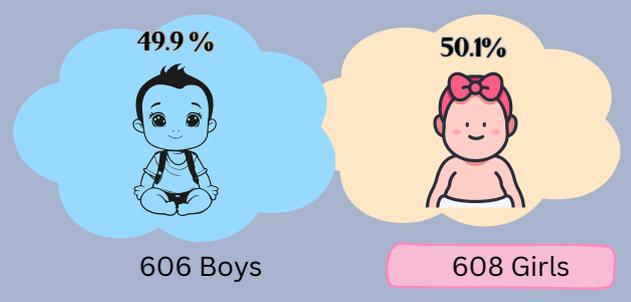
The thoughtful use of technology in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) can have numerous benefits and promote success in later life when utilized effectively by parents and caregivers.



# SOME RESULTS

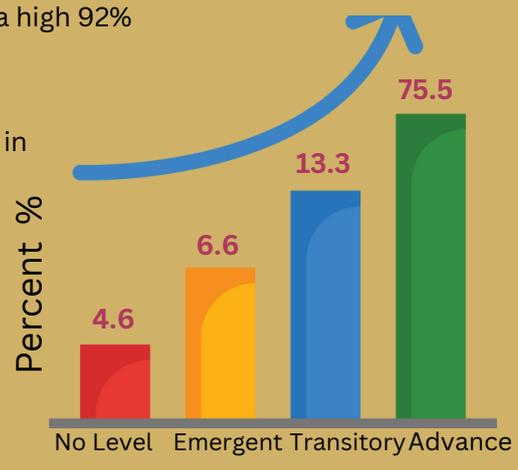


Excellent gender parity in access to child care services in 2023.

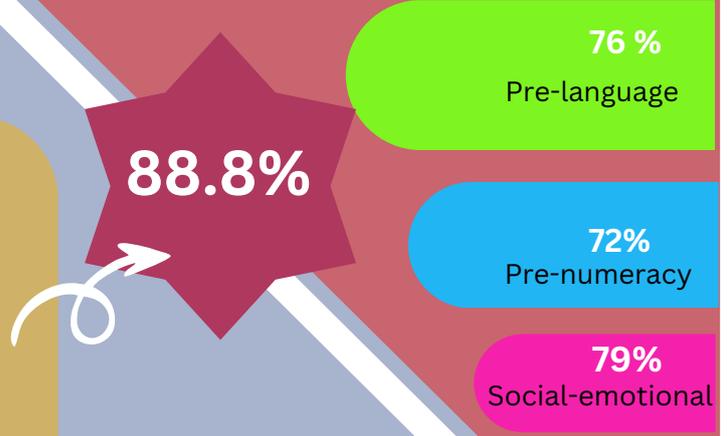


- Children in registered home-based child care services showed slightly higher educational outcomes compared to those in center-based registered services and unregistered services.
- Girls outperformed boys by 3 points
- Percentage of children in registered home-based services reached a high 92%

Overall readiness level is 88.8% as compared to 87.3 in 2022



## The Three Domains: Success rate



## Parents / Guardians

- Parental engagement exceeded expectations by almost 30 percentage points compared to the previous two years.
- Parent's renewed vigour in their child learning and development at an early stage
- Positive collaboration between parents and the care providers
- The number of fathers who showed an interest in their child's care well-being was on the increase.

## Child Care Service Providers

- 98% of respondents had at least completed secondary education
- 85% of respondents had at least 5 years or more of experience in the field

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- *The early learning programme should create an enriching environment that supports cognitive development, language, literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving skills, while also nurturing children's social-emotional growth.*
- *Encourage new school graduates to consider a career in childcare and this could bring financial stability, professional growth, and the potential to create job opportunities for others.*
- *More emphasis should be placed on improving boys' academic performance and consider strategies to narrow the gender gap, as it was statistically significant across all three domains.*

## Acknowledgement & Appreciation

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Registered Childminders / Child Care managers / Parents / Data Collectors & Enterers  
IECD / UNESCO Category 2 Institute Management & Staff