Summary

Balázs Török:
Parents and Kindergartens –Based on a Country-Wide Parent Survey

A national survey of parents with children in kindergartens was initiatated and financed by the Hungarian Ministry of Education in 2001. The project was implemented in cooperation with the National Institute of Public Education Hungary (OKI), the National Assessment and Examination Center (OKÉV) and the Hungarian Institute for Educational Research (OI). This study highlights the diverse demands of parents on nursery teachers, provides information about the satisfaction of parents with kindergartens, and some of the parents' points of view when choosing a kindergarten for their child.

These are some important results evident from the survey:

- It appeared that even though by law the possibility exists for parents to chose a kindergarten, slightly more than half of parents had a real possibility to choose a kindergarten.
- Important considerations for parents in the choice of kindergarten were the quality of pedagogical staff, the distance from home of the kindergarten and the kindergarten of the child's brother(s) and/or sister(s), and the advice and opinions of the parent's friends and acquaintances.
- The survey showed that 37 percent of parents are completely satisfied with their kindergarten (5 points on 5-level scale where 1 = very dissatisfied), and 52 percent of parents ranked their kindergarten as „good" (4 point on 5-level scale).
- Only 9 percent of parents stated that they would like to have more influence in the running of their kindergarten.
- Results of the survey indicated that about one third of parents were opposed to their children using computers while they had computer at home.

Relating to the last point, in 2004 the Ministry of Education and the Pedagogical Commission of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences supported a research project on the subject of the usage of computers by children of kindergarten-age The main object of the research will be to show how parents can use computers to develop their child's learning capabilities. This research will be carried out by the Institute for Higher Educational Research in 2005. (For more information please visit http://www.hier.iif.hu or send an e-mail to Balazs Torok: torokb@ella.hu) the development of comparable indicators of Early Childhood Education and Care.